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WESTERN AMERICANA

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Church, and we believe that it is the only system of doctrine which God ever revealed to man in a gospel dispensation, and the only system which can be maintained by the New Testament.

Now as far as all other modern religious systems differ from the foregoing principles, so far we disfellowship them. We neither recognize their priesthood, nor ordinances as divine. But at the same time we wish well to the individuals of all societies; we believe that many of them are sincere, and that they have the right to enjoy their religious opinions in peace. We do not wish to persecute any people for their religion. But we wish to instruct them in those principles which we consider to be right as far as they are willing to receive instruction, but no farther. We also believe that the scriptures of the Old and New Testament are true; and that they are designed for our profit and learning, and that all mistical or private interpretation of them ought to be done away; that the prophecies, and doctrine, the covenants and promises contained in them have a literal application, according to the most plain, easy, and simple meaning of the language in which they are written. We believe that the scriptures now extant do not contain all the sacred writings which God ever gave to man, for it is a fact easily demonstrated, that they contain but a small portion indeed of the things which God has made known to our race, for it is evident that a communication has been kept open between God and man from the days of Adam to the present day, among all nations, kindreds, tongues and people; except such communication has been witheld by reason of transgression. Thousands of communications were received before the Bible began to be written.—Thousands of communications were received during the progress of these writings, besides those which are written in it, and thousands of communications have been received since the Bible was completed. Thousands of communications have also been received among other nations, and in other countries remote from the scenes where the Bible was written. And in short, the Holy Ghost is a spirit of revelation and prophecy, and wherever it has been enjoyed by mankind, there communications from God have been received.

I must however before leaving this subject, contradict certain reports which are in circulation concerning our principles in regard to property, and also in regard to matrimony. It is a current report, and often credited by those who have no acquaintance with our society, that we hold our property in common. This is a base falsehood without a shadow of truth. The members of this church have ever held their property individually, the same as other societies, with the exception of that which they freely give for the use of the society, to minister to the wants of the poor, and for the building of houses of worship, &c. The property thus given is managed by proper officers who render a strict account for all their incomes and expenditures, and who have no right to apply one dollar for any other purpose than that for which it is given.

It is also a current report among the ignorant, that we do away matrimony, and that we allow of unlawful intercourse between the sexes, &c. Now this idea originated and has been kept alive by wicked and designing persons, and by the credulity of those who are more willing and ready to believe a falsehood, than they are to believe the truth. There has never been the shadow of any thing to cause such a report; on the contrary, our principles on this subject have been extensively published, both from the press and pulpit. We believe that it is lawful that man should have one wife, and that they are bound together until death shall separate, and that all adultery and fornication are strictly forbidden by the word of God, and in all our rules and regulations as a church and society; and whosoever is guilty of such abominations cannot inherit the kingdom of God without a strict repentance and reformation; and without this they can have no place in our society.

There are many other reports in circulation which we think unworthy of any particular notice by way of contradiction, as they are in themselves too foolish and absurd to do a candid public or ourselves any harm. They are such as the story of the "Angel Caught,"—the story of walking on the water,—the love tale, &c. There is one story however, which

I will notice here, because some religious journals have given some credit to it. It is the story of Solomon Spaulding, writing a romance of the ancient inhabitants of America, which is said to be converted by Mr. Sidney Rigdon, into the Book of Mormon. This is another base fabrication got up by the devil and his servants to deceive the world. Mr. Sidney Rigdon never saw the Book of Mormon until it had been published more than six months; it was then presented to him by the author of this history. The book of Mormon is not a romance, but a record of eternal truth which will stand when heaven and earth shall pass away. It bears abundant evidence upon the face of it to show to any candid reader of the least literary discernment, that there never was the shadow of romance in its origin. It is reported of our society that they feel a disposition to stir up the Indians to hostilities against the whites. This is also without foundation or truth.

We are true Americans, we love our country and its institutions; we wish all war and bloodshed to come to an end. We are also friends to the red man, as human beings, and more especially as descendants of Israel. We wish them to become acquainted with the fact that they are descendants of Israel and also with the knowledge of Jesus Christ, which was had among their fathers, and that they may repent and obey the gospel, and become a peaceful and a blessed people, and we believe they will soon become such, for the covenants made with their fathers must be fulfilled.

And we think that the record of their fathers which has now come to light, together with the other scriptures, will do more towards their conversion to christianity, than all the precepts of sectarianism which can be taught them.

Having given this brief sketch of our religious principles, we will now return to our account of the rise and progress of the church, until we come down to the commencement of the late persecution. After the six members were organized as stated in the foregoing, they gradually increased in numbers until in September, 1830, at which time they numbered about fifty. In October, four of their elders, [illegible] Pratt

LATE

PERSECUTION

OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST, OF

LATTER DAY SAINTS.

TEN THOUSAND AMERICAN CITIZENS ROBBED, PLUNDERED,
AND BANISHED; OTHERS IMPRISONED, AND OTHERS
MARTYRED FOR THEIR RELIGION.

With a Sketch of their Rise, Progress and Doctrine.

BY P. P. PRATT,
MINISTER OF THE GOSPEL:
WRITTEN IN PRISON.

"And the blood of the Saints shall cry from the ground against them."
Book of Mormon.

NEW-YORK:
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INTRODUCTION.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints was first organized in the State of New York, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty, on the sixth day of April. At its first organization, it consisted of six members. The first instruments of its organization were Joseph Smith, jun., and Oliver Cowdery, who profess to have received their authority and priesthood, or apostleship, by direct revelation from God—by the voice of God—by the ministering of angels—and by the Holy Ghost. They claim no authority whatever from antiquity, that is, they never received baptism nor ordination from any religious system which previously existed; but being commanded from on high, they first baptized each other, and then commenced to minister the gospel and its ordinances to others. The first principle of Theology as held by this Church, is Faith in God the eternal Father, and in his Son Jesus Christ, who verily was crucified for the sins of the world, and who rose from the dead on the third day, and is now seated at the right hand of God as a mediator, and in the Holy Ghost who bears record of them, the same to day as yesterday, and forever. The second principle is Repentance towards God; that is, all men who believe in the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, are required to turn away from their sins, to cease from their EVIL DEEDS, and to come humble before the throne of grace with a broken heart and a contrite spirit. The third principle is Baptism, by immersion in water, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, for remission of sins, with the promise of the Holy Ghost to all who believe and obey the gospel. The fourth principle is, the laying on of hands in the name of Jesus Christ, for the gift of the Holy Ghost. This ordinance is to be administered by the apostles or elders of the Church, upon all those who are baptized into this church. Through these several steps of faith and obedience, man is made partaker of the Holy Ghost, and numbered with the children of God. Through this process man is adopted into the Church and kingdom of God, as one of his Saints: his name is then enrolled in the book of the names of the righteous, and it then becomes his duty to watch, to pray, to deal justly; and to meet together with the saints as oft as circumstances will admit of; and with them to partake of bread and wine in remembrance of the broken body and shed blood of Jesus Christ; and in short, to continue faithful unto the end, in all the duties which are enjoined by the Law of Christ. Fifth, it is the duty and privilege of the saints thus organized upon the everlasting gospel, to believe in and enjoy all the gifts, powers, and blessings which flow from the Holy Spirit. Such for instance, as the gifts of revelation, prophecy, visions, the ministry of angels, healing the sick by the laying on of hands in the name of Jesus, the working of miracles, and in short all the gifts as mentioned in scripture, or as enjoyed by the ancient saints.

This is a brief outline of the doctrine of this

We therefore believe in the Book of Mormon which is an ancient American Record, lately discovered, containing a sketch of the history, prophecies, and doctrine of the ancient nations who inhabited this country. And we also believe in many communications which God has been pleased to make to us in the rise and progress of this church, as he has often revealed his word to us, by visions, by dreams, by angels, by his own voice, and by the Holy Spirit of Prophecy and Revelation: and lastly, we believe that God will continue to reveal himself to us until all things are revealed concerning the past, present, and future; until we have come in possession of all the knowledge, intelligence, or truth which is in existence. We believe that the Jews and all the house of Israel will soon be gathered home to their own lands, from all the countries where they have been dispersed, and that they will become one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel, never more to be divided or overcome, and that they will all be brought to a knowledge of God, and will become a holy nation. We also believe that Jesus Christ will come in person, in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory, and all the saints with him to reign on earth a thousand years, and that he will destroy the wicked from the earth by terrible judgments at the time of his coming. We also believe that the saints will raise from the dead at his second coming, and that they will live and reign on earth one thousand years. We do not believe that the wicked will rise from the dead until the thousand years are ended, but that their resurrection is after the millennium and connected with the last judgment. We further believe that the restoration of Israel and Judah, and the second advent of Messiah are near at hand, and that the generation now lives who will witness the fulfilment of these great events, and that the Lord has raised up the Church of Latterday Saints, and has set the truth in order among them as a commencement of this great restoration. For further particulars as to our doctrine and principles I refer the reader to a work entitled "The Voice of Warning," which is particularly designed as an introduction to our faith and doctrine.

viz:—O. Cowdery, Z. Peterson, P. Whitmer, and P. P. Pratt, took a mision to Ohio, where they soon baptized some hundreds, insomuch that in June, 1831, the whole church numbered near two thousands. A general conference was then held in Kirtland, Ohio, and was attended by something like sixty of their preachers. These four elders who founded the Church in Ohio, soon continued their journey farther westward, being accompanied by F. G. Williams, and after many hardships, they found themselves on the western frontier of Missouri, in the beginning of 1831. These were the first of the society who penetrated into that State, indeed, they were the first who introduced the system in all the States west of New York.—During the summer and autumn of 1831, many families of our society from New York and from Ohio, emigrated to Missouri. They purchased lands in Jackson County, and made improvements in agriculture and in many of the useful branches of mechanism; they established a a printing press and a mercantile establishment, and various other branches of business in the town of Independence, (the shire town of Jackson county.) This colony soon increased to the number of one thousand and upwards. All the lands they settled were paid for, and they lived in the most perfect peace with the other inhabitants of the county; having no lawsuits, nor any disturbance of any kind. In the mean time the system was rapidly spreading in the eastern states, insomuch that in 1835, branches of the church and general conferences had been organized through all the states eastward as far as Maine. In 1836 it was introduced into Toronto, Upper Canada, when it soon spread through the province. And in 1837 several of the elders sailed for England, under the direction of O. Hide, and H. C Kimble, where they soon baptized between one and two thousand. The same year, P. P. Pratt, assisted by E. Fordham, introduced it into the City of New York, where it has gradually spread until now, gathering a society in the city, and in various parts of the country around, and up to the autumn of 1839, it is still spreading in almost every country where it is known, and we anticipate a time not far distant, when a knowledge of this system of theology will be enjoyed by all the nations of the earth, for, for this end was it sent into the world. The apostles and elders of this church have a special mission to fulfil, to every nation, kindred, tongue and people under heaven; and this is the gospel of the kingdom which was to be preached, for a testimony unto all nations, and then shall the Son of man come. If the people oppose this great mission, it will only injure themselves. It will not hinder the rolling forth of the work of God, nor the fulfilment of his purposes; for *he has set his hand the second time to bring about the Restoration of Israel, with the fulness of the Gentiles.* We now close our introduction, in order to come without further delay, after a short preface, to the history of the persecution.

PREFACE.

THE following Narrative professes to be a plain, unvarnished statement of facts, penned by one who was a personal sufferer in the scenes which it unfolds to the world. It makes few pretensions to literary merit, being written in a cold, dark, and dreary prison, and amid the chat, noise, and confusion of several prisoners; and in the midst of the howling, laughing, contention, song-singing, gambling and blasphemy of a gang of demons in human shape, who were placed as guards over us. It was written by one who was held in bondage, to be tried for his life, in a state where all law and justice were at an end; the highest authorities of the state having banished his wife and two little infant children from their homes, robbed of their all, to wander in a land of strangers, together with all his friends and witnesses. It was written by one who was daily in danger of being assassinated while prisoner, and who, to all human appearance, had no prospect of ever living to publish his work. And even the writings themselves were providentially and very narrowly preserved from destruction, and sent out of prison by stratagem, when eagerly sought for by those who dreaded to have truth come to light. The fact is, a goose-quill in our fingers was more terror to the guilty authorities of Missouri, than the sling-stone of the stripling son of Jesse, or the jaw bone in the hands of the mighty Nazarene, were to the sons of Anak, or the hosts of Philistia. A smooth stone from the brook, hurled by a shepherd boy, decided the fortune of war between two mighty empires. A jaw bone of the most stupid of animals, wielded by a single arm, prostrated a thousand men, and made a nation tremble. And these were considered as wonderful achievements of olden time. But who, even in that age of wonders, would have believed that a quill, plucked from the wing of a silly goose, and sharpened at one end, when aimed at a Republican State, would have made its rulers and people tremble like a Belteshazer, when weighed in the ballance and found wanting. Yet so it was in Missouri. Every precaution was taken to prevent our writing and sending truth to the world. Yet here it comes in Blazing torrents, bursting forth like a flame which had been for a moment smothered under the weight of its own fuel. It lays open to the broad light of day, the horrid scenes of murder, treason, robbery, and plunder, which have been acted in our renowned Republic, and scenes which would put tyranny itself to the blush, and almost bring tears of blood from the heathen of the darkest age. Would the people of Missouri smother the truth under a bushel—hush the impulse of freedom in the bosoms of Americans—silence the voice of Liberty in the free born sons of Columbia? As well may they undertake to drain the ocean, hedge up the waters of the great Missouri, that they no longer make their way to the gulf of Mexico; or make a veil for the sun, to prevent its illuminating the face of nature.

The progress of truth is onward, with Omnipotent power and strength; and although obstacles may interpose to retard its progress for a moment, yet as if strengthened by this very opposition, it moves forward in awful majesty, crushing all things else beneath its weight, or blowing them away like the chaff of the summer threshing floors, until becoming a great mountain, it fills the whole earth, and ushers in the reign of universal peace. *Americans, read, ponder, weigh and consider, and act accordingly.*

PERSECUTION

OF THE

LATTER DAY SAINTS.

"The following is a copy of a declaration, which was signed by the mob at the commencement of their operations, in 1833; and it may be considered as their articles of agreement in conspiring against the laws of the land; and the very foundation of that awful scene which has well nigh destroyed a flourishing society of many thousands, and involved the whole State in irretrievable ruin.

"We, the undersigned, citizens of Jackson county, believing that an important crisis is at hand, as regards our civil society, in consequence of a pretended religious sect of people, that have settled and are still settling in our county, styling themselves Mormons;* and intending as we do to rid our society, peaceably if we can, forcibly if we must: and believing as we do, that the arm of the civil law does not afford us a guarantee, or at least a sufficient one, against the evils which are now inflicted upon us, and seem to be increasing by the said religious sect; deem it expedient and of the highest importance, to form ourselves into a company for the better and easier accomplishment of our purpose; a purpose which we deem it almost superfluous to say, is justified as well by the law of nature as by the law of self-preservation. It is now more than two years since the first of these fanatics or knaves (for one or the other they undoubtedly are) made their first appearance amongst us; and pretending as they did, and now do, to hold personal communion and converse, face to face, with the most high God—to receive communications and revelations direct from Heaven—to heal the sick by laying on hands—and in short, to perform all the wonder working miracles wrought by the inspired Apostles and prophets of old. We believe them deluded fanatics, or weak and designing knaves; and that they and their pretentions would soon pass away; but in this we were deceived. The arts of a few designing leaders amongst them have thus far succeeded in holding them together as a society, and since the arrival of the first of them, they have been daily increasing in numbers, and if they had been respectable citizens in society, and thus deluded, they would have been entitled to our pity rather than our contempt and hatred. But from their appearance, from their manners, and from their conduct since their coming among us, we have every reason to fear, that with very few exceptions, they were of the very dregs of that society from whence they came—lazy, idle and vicious. This we conceive is not an idle assertion, but a fact susceptible of proof; for with the few exceptions above named, they brought into our country with them, little or no property, and left less behind them; and we infer, that those only, yoked themselves to the Mormon car, who had nothing earthly or heavenly to lose by the change; and we fear that if some of the leaders among them, had paid the forfeit due to crime, instead of being chosen ambassadors of the Most High, would have been inmates of solitary cells. But their conduct here, stamps their characters in their true colours. More than a year since it was ascertained that they had been tampering with our slaves, and endeavoring to sow dissentions and to raise seditions amongst them. Of this, their Mormon leaders were informed; and said that they would deal with any of their members who should again in like case offend. But how specious are appearances. In a late number of the Star, published in Independence, by the leaders of this sect, there is an article inviting free negroes and mulattoes from other States, to become Mormons, and remove and settle among us. This exhibits them in still more odious colors. It manifests a desire on the part of their society to inflict on our society an injury that they know would be to us insupportable, and one of the surest means of driving us from the county; for it would require none of the supernatural gifts that they pretend to, to see that the introduction of such a cast among us, would corrupt our blacks, and instigate them to bloodshed.

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*The Society never styled themselves Mormons, it is a name vulgarly attached to them. The true name is "Latterday Saints."

"They openly blaspheme the most High God and cast contempt upon His Holy Religion, by pretending to receive Revelations direct from Heaven—by pretending to speak in unknown tongues by direct inspiration—and by divers pretences derogatory of God and religion and to the utter subversion of human reason. They declare openly that their God hath given them this county of land, and that sooner or later, they must and will have possession of our lands for an inheritance; and in fine they have conducted themselves on many other occasions in such a manner, that we believe it a duty we owe to ourselves, to our wives and children, and to the cause of public morals, to remove them from among us. We are not prepared to give up our pleasant places and goodly possessions to them; or to receive into the bosom of our families as fit companions for our wives and daughters, the degraded free negroes and mulattoes, who are now invited to settle among us. Under such a state of things, even our beautiful county would cease to be a desirable residence, and our situation intolerable. We therefore agree, that after timely warning, and upon receiving an adequate compensation for what little property they cannot take with them, they refuse to leave us in peace as they found us, we agree to use such means as may be sufficient to remove them. And to that end, we severally pledge to each other, our lives, our bodily powers, fortunes, and sacred honors! We will meet at the Court House in the town of Independence, on Saturday next, to consult of ulterior movements."

Hundreds of signatures were signed to the foregoing, among which were the following, viz: Henry Chiles, Attorney, Russel Hicks, Attorney, Hugh L. Brazeale, Attorney, Henry Westen, J. P., John Smith, J. P., John Cook, J. P. Lewis Franklin, jailor, Thomas Pitcher, Lt. Col. Militia, and Constable, Samuel C. Owens, County Clerk, D. Lucas, Colonel of Militia, and Judge of County Court, James H. Florney, P. M., Moses Willson.

Before I proceed with the history, I will briefly notice a few items of the foregoing [illegible] of conspiracy, for I consider most of it as too barefaced to need any comment. In the first place I would enquire whether our belief as set forth in this declaration, as to gifts, miracles, Revelations and tongues, is not the same that all the Apostles and disciples taught, believed and practiced, and the doctrine of the New Testament?

2ndly, I would inquire when the New Testament religion ceased, and a law revealed or instituted, which made blasphemy of the belief and practise of it? or what holy religion the Jackson mob were speaking of, which was thrown into contempt by the revival of the New Testament religion?

3rdly, They complain of our Society being very poor as to property; but have they never read in the New Testament that God had chosen the poor in this world, rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom of God? And when did poverty become a crime known to the law?

4thly, Concerning free negroes and mulattoes. Do not the laws of Missouri provide abundantly for the removal from the state of all free negroes and mulattoes? (except certain privileged ones;) and also for the punishment of those who introduce or harbor them? The statement concerning our invitation to them to become Mormons, and remove to this state, and settle among us, is a wicked fabrication, as no such thing was ever published in the Star, or anywhere else, by our people, nor anything in the shadow of it; and we challenge the people of Jackson, or any other people, to produce such a publication from us.

In fact one dozen free negroes or mulattoes never have belonged to our Society in any part of the world, from its first organization to this day, 1839.

5thly. As to crime or vice, we solemnly appeal to all the records of the courts of Jackson county, and challenge the county to produce the name of any individual of our Society on the list of indictments, from the time of our first settlement in the county, to the time of our expulsion, a period of more than two years.

6thly. As it respects the ridiculous report of our threatening that we would have their lands for a possession, it is too simple to require a notice, as the laws of the country guarantee to every man his rights, and abundantly protect him in their full enjoyment. And we hereby declare, that we settled no lands, only such as our money purchased, and that no such thing ever entered our hearts, as possessing any inheritance in any other way. And

7thly, We ask what public morals were in danger of being corrupted, where officers of the peace could openly violate their several oaths in the most awful manner, and join with hundreds of others in murder, treason, robbery, house burning, stealing, etc.

But to proceed with my history. Pursuant to the last clause of the bond, the mob met at the court house, on the 20th of July, and proceeded immediately to demolish the brick printing office and dwelling house of W. W. Phelps & Co., and destroyed or took possession of the press, types, books and property of the establishment; at the same time turning Mrs. Phelps and children out of doors, after which they proceeded to personal violence by a wanton assault and battery upon the Bishop of the Church, Mr. Edward Partridge, and a Mr. Allen, whom they tarred and feathered, and variously abused. They then compelled Messrs. Gilbert Whitney & Co. to close their store and pack their goods, after which they adjourned to meet again on the 23rd of July; on which day they again met, to the number of several hundred, armed with fire-arms, dirks and sticks, with red flags hoisted, and as they entered town, threatening death and destruction to the Mormons. On this day six individuals of the Church signed an agreement to leave the county, one half by the first of January, and the other half by the first of April, 1834; hoping thereby to preserve the lives of their brethren, and their property. After this the mob dispersed, threatening destruction to the Mormons on the next New-Year's day if they were not off by that time.

After this, an express was sent to the Governor of the State, stating the facts of the outrage, and praying for some relief and protection. But none was afforded, only some advice for us to prosecute the offenders, which was accordingly undertaken. But this so enraged the mob that they began to make preparations to come out by night and recommence depredations. Having passed through the most aggravating insults and injuries without making the least resistance, a general inquiry prevailed at this time throughout the Church, as to the propriety of self-defence. Some claimed the right of defending themselves, their families, and property from destruction; while others doubted the propriety of self-defence; and as the agreement of the 23rd of July, between the two parties had been published to the world, wherein it was set forth, that the Mormons were not to leave until the 1st of January and 1st of April, 1834. It was believed by many of the Mormons that the leaders of the mob would not suffer so bare-faced a violation of the agreement before the time therein set forth; but Thursday night, the 31st of October, gave them abundant proof that no pledge, verbal or written, was longer to be regarded; for, on that night, between forty and fifty, many of whom were armed with guns, proceeded against a branch of the Church, about eight miles west of town, and unroofed and partly demolished ten dwelling houses; and in the midst of the shrieks and screams of women and children, whipt and beat, in a savage manner, several of the men; and with their horrid threats, frightened women and children, into the wilderness. Such of the men as could escape, fled for their lives; for very few of them had arms, neither were they embodied; and they were threatened with death if they made any resistance. Such, therefore, as could not escape by flight, received a pelting by rocks, and a beating by guns and whips.

On Friday, the first of November, women and children sallied forth from their gloomy retreats, to contemplate, with heart-rending anguish, the ravages of a ruthless mob, in the mangled bodies of their husbands, and in the destruction of their houses and furniture.—Houseless, and unprotected by the arm of civil law in Jackson county—the dreary month of November staring them in the face, and loudly proclaiming a more inclement season at hand,—the continual threats of the mob, that they would drive every *Mormon from* the county,—and the inability of many to remove because of their poverty, caused an anguish of heart indescribable.

These outrages were committed about two miles from my residence; news reached me before daylight the same morning, and I immediately repaired to the place, and was filled with anguish at the awful sights of houses in ruins, and furniture destroyed and strewed about the streets; women in different directions were weeping and mourning, while some of the men were covered with blood from the blows they had received from the enemy; others were endeavoring to collect the fragments of their scattered furniture, beds, &c.

I endeavored to collect together as many men as possible, and after consultation, we concluded to embody for defence. Accordingly we collected some sixty men, armed ourselves as well as we could, and took shelter next evening in a log house. We set a guard, and sent out spies through the different parts of the settlement to watch the movements of the mob; but some time in the night two of the enemy advanced to our guard, being armed with guns and pistols, and while they were conversing I walked near them, and one of them struck me over the head, with all his might, with his gun. I staggered back, the blood streaming down my face, but I did not fall. As I had command of our party, I ordered our men to disarm the two ruffians and secure them, which was done; and this probably prevented a general attack of the mob that night. The next morning they were let go in peace.

The same night (Friday) a party in Independence commenced stoning houses, breaking down doors and windows, destroying furniture, &c. This night the brick part of a dwelling house belonging to A. S. Gilbert, was partly demolished, and the windows of his dwelling broken in, while a gentleman lay sick in his house.

The same night the doors of the house of Messrs. Gilbert and Whitney were split open, and the goods strewed in the street, to which fact upwards of twenty witnesses can attest.

After midnight a party of our men marched for the store, &c. and when the mob saw them approach they fled. But one of their number, a Richard M'Carty, was caught in the act of throwing rocks in at the door, while the goods lay strung around him in the street. He was immediately taken before Samuel Weston, Esq. and a warrant requested, that said M'Carty might be secured; but his justiceship refused to do anything in the case, and M'Carty was then liberated.

The same night many of their houses had poles and rails thrust through the shutters and sash, into the rooms of defenceless women and children, from whence their husbands and fathers had been driven by the attacks of the mob which were made by ten or twenty men upon one house at a time. On Saturday, the 2d November all the families of these people who lived in Independence, moved out of town about one half mile west, and embodied for the preservation of themselves and property. Saturday night a party of the mob made an attack upon a settlement about six miles west of the town. Here they tore the roof from a dwelling, broke open another house, found the owner, Mr. David Bennet, sick in bed, whom they beat inhumanly, and swore they would blow his brains out, and discharging a pistol, the ball cut a deep gash across the top of his head. In this skirmish one of their men was shot in the thigh.

On Sunday evening, about sunset, myself and a Mr. Marsh, set out on horseback to visit the Circuit Judge at Lexington, a distance of some forty miles. We were under the necessity of going the most private paths across the country, in order to avoid our enemies; but we had a most faithful pilot, who knew every crook and turn of the country. We had rode but a few miles, when it became so extremely dark that we could not see each other. Our pilot dismounted several times and felt his way; but at length we came to a halt, and lay down upon the ground until it broke away and became some lighter, and then we were enabled to go ing; but the rain began to fall in torrents, and continued all the latter part of the night; we soon became completely drenched, and every thread about us perfectly wet; but still we dare not stop for any refreshment or shelter until day dawned, when we found ourselves forty miles from home, and at the door of a friend, where we breakfasted and refreshed ourselves.

We then repaired to Lexington and made oath, before Judge Riland, of the outrages committed upon us, but were refused a warrant; the Judge advising us to fight and kill the mob whenever they came upon us. We then returned to the place where we breakfasted; and night coming on, we retired to bed. Having been without sleep for the three previous nights, and much of the time drenched in rain, together with the severe wound I had received, I was well nigh exhausted. No sooner had sleep enfolded me in her kind embrace, than a vision opened before me:

I found myself in Jackson county, heard the roar of fire-arms, and saw the killed and wounded lying in their blood. At this I awoke from my slumber; and awaking brother Marsh and the family with whom we stayed, I told them what I had seen and heard in my dream, and observed to them that I was sure that a battle had just ensued. Next morning we arose and pursued our journey homeward, with feelings of anxiety and uncertainty which cannot be described.

Every officer of the peace had abandoned us to our fate, and it seemed as if there was no way but for men, women and children to be exterminated. But as we rode on, ruminating upon these things, a man met us, from Independence, who told us that there was a battle raging when he left, and how it had terminated he knew not.

This only heightened our feelings of anxiety and suspense. We were every moment drawing nearer to where a moment would decide whether we were to find our friends alive and victorious, or whether they were slain, and we in the hands of a worse than savage enemy.

On coming within four miles of Independence, we ventured to enquire the distance, of a certain house. This we did in order to pass as strangers, and also in hopes to learn some news.

This man seemed frightened, and inquired where we were from? We replied, "From Lexington."—Said he, "Have you heard what has happened?"

We replied that we had understood there was some difficulty respecting the Mormons, but of all the particulars we had not been informed. "Why?" said he, "The Mormons have riz and have killed six men." At this we seemed much surprised, and inquired if the government would not put down such an insurrection? We then passed on, and as soon as we were out of sight, we left the road and rode into the woods. Taking a circuitous route through thickets of hazel, interwoven with grape-vine, &c., and after some difficulty and entanglement, we came in sight of Independence, and advanced toward it, wishing to pass through, in order to get to a camp of our men near half a mile west of town. But seeing parties of armed men advancing towards us, we wheeled about and re-

[illegible] [illegible] and turned again to the woods, and struck round on the side of the town, through the wilderness, towards the seats of our brethren, pushing our horses with the greatest speed; thus we avoided being taken, and arrived safe. But what was our astonishment when we found our brethren without arms, having surrendered them to their enemies. The truth of the matter was this: on Monday eve, while I lay sleeping at our friend's, near Lexington, the same eve that I dreamed of the battle, the mob again advanced upon the settlement, where they had first destroyed the ten houses, and commenced an attack upon houses and property, and threatening women and children with immediate destruction. While some 60 of the mob were thus engaged, about 30 of our men marched near them, and a battle ensued, in which the mob were entirely routed, leaving two of their number dead on the field, together with a number of horses. Several were severely wounded on both sides, and one young man of the Church died the next day; his name was Barber.

One of the enemy who fell, was an Attorney by the name of Brazeale, he had been heard a short time before to say, that he would wade to his knees in blood or drive the Mormons from the county.

The same night runners were despatched in every direction, under pretence of calling out the militia; spreading as they went, every rumor calculated to excite the unwary; such as, that the Mormons had taken Independence, and the Indians had surrounded it, being allied together, &c. The same eve, November 4th, the said McCarty, who had been detected in breaking open the store of Gilbert & Co., was suffered to take out a warrant and arrest the said Gilbert and others of the Church, for a pretended assault and false imprisonment of said McCarty.

Late in the eve, while the court were proceeding with the trial in the court house, a gentleman unconnected with the court, perceiving the prisoners to be without counsel and in imminent danger, advised said Gilbert and his brethren to move for jail as the only alternative to save life; for the north door was already barity, and a mob thronged the house with a determination to beat and kill; accordingly Gilbert and four others were committed to jail; the dungeons of which must have been a palace compared to the court room where dignity and mercy were strangers, and naught but the wrath of man in horrid threats filled the ears of the prisoners. The same night, Gilbert, Morley and Carrill were liberated from jail, that they might have an interview with their brethren, and try to persuade them to leave the country; and on their return to jail, about 2 o'clock on Tuesday morning, in custody of the sheriff, an armed force of six or seven men stood near the jail and hailed; they were answered by the sheriff, who gave his name and the names of his prisoners, crying, "don't fire, don't fire, the prisoners are in my charge," &c. They however fired one or two guns, when Morley and Carrill retreated; Gilbert stood, with several guns pointed at him. Two, more desperate than the rest, attempted to shoot, but one of the guns flashed, and the other missed fire. Gilbert was then knocked down by Thomas

Wilson. About this time a few of the inhabitants arrived, and Gilbert again entered jail; from which he and three others were liberated about sunrise, without further prosecution of the trial. The same morning, November 5th, the town began to be crowded with armed men from every quarter, and it was said that the militia had been called out, under the sanction of Lieut. Gov. Boggs, and that one Col. Pitcher had the command. Among this militia, (so called) were the most conspicuous characters of the mob. Very early on the same morning, several branches of the Church on hearing of the outrages in Independence, volunteered, and united their forces, and marched towards town to defend their brethren. When within one mile of town, they halted, and were soon informed that the militia were called out for their protection. But in this they placed little confidence: for the body congregated had every appearance of a country mob, which subsequent events verified. On application to Col. Pitcher it was found that there was no alternative but for the Church to leave the country forthwith; and to deliver up certain men to be tried for murder said to have been committed by them in the battle the previous evening. The arms of this people were also demanded by the Colonel, and among the committee appointed to receive their arms, was several of the most unrelenting of the old mob committee of July; who had directed in the demolishing of the printing office, &c., viz: Henry Chiles, Abner Staples, and Lewis Franklin.

Rather than have submitted to these outrageous requirements, the saints would willingly have shed their blood; but they knew that if they resisted this mob, the lies of the designing, and the prejudice of the ignorant would construe their resistance into a violation of law, and thus bring certain destruction upon them: therefore they surrendered their arms to the number of 50, and agreed to leave the county forthwith. The men who were demanded as prisoners, were also surrendered and imprisoned; but were dismissed in a day or two without trial. A few hours after the surrender, we arrived at the camp of our brethren near

Independence, on our return from Lexington, as stated in the foregoing; and when we found that the struggle was over, and our liberties completely trampled under foot, I retired into the woods and kneeled down, and wept before the Lord.

The sun was then setting, and twelve miles separated me from my family; but I determined to reach home that night. My horse being weary, I started on foot, and walked through the wilderness in the midst of darkness, avoiding the road, lest I should fall into the hands of the enemy. I arrived home about the middle of the night; spent a few hours with my family, and arose again before day, and fled to the wilderness, as the mob were driving our people, and hunting them in every direction. After walking a few miles, I found a brother by the name of Lowry, who was moving from the county in a covered wagon, he having a permit from the mob to pass in safety.

This man concealed me in his wagon, and thus we passed in safety, although frequently meeting armed men, who were pursuing our brethren. When night again overtook us, we were on the bank of the Missouri river, which divided between Jackson and Clay counties.— Here we encamped for the night, as we could not cross the ferry till morning. I left the camp and ascended the tall bluff, and finding a cavity of a rock I slept therein. But before morning, I was joined by Mr. Morley and several others, who fled for their lives and brought news that the mob were driving and probably butchering men, women and children. On hearing this news, we tried to pray, but we could say but little. Next morning we crossed over the river, and found ourselves once more in a land of peace. While I thus made my escape, companies of ruffians were ranging the county in every direction, bursting into houses without fear, knowing that the arms were secured, frightening women and children, and threatening to kill them if they didn't flee immediately. At the head of one of these companies appeared the Rev. Mr. McCoy, (a noted Missionary to the Indians) with a gun upon his shoulder, ordering the Mormons to leave immediately, and surrender every thing in the shape of arms. Other pretended preachers of the gospel took part in the persecution; calling the Mormons the common enemy of mankind, and exulting in their afflictions. On Tuesday and Wednesday nights, the 5th and 6th of November, women and children fled in every direction, before a merciless mob. One party of about a hundred and fifty women and children, fled to the prairie, where they wandered for several days, mostly without food, and nothing but the open firmament for their shelter. Other parties fled towards the Missouri. During this dispersion of women and children, parties of the mob were hunting men, firing upon some, tying up and whipping others; and some they pursued upon horses for several miles.

Thursday, November 7th, the shore began to be lined on both sides of the ferry, with men, women and children, goods, wagons, boxes, chests, provisions, &c., while the *ferrymen* were very busily employed in crossing them over; and when night again closed upon us, the wilderness had much the appearance of a camp meeting. Hundreds of people were seen in every direction. Some in tents and some in the open air, around their fires, while the rain descended in torrents. Husbands were enquiring for wives, and women for their husbands; parents for children, and children for parents. Some had the good fortune to escape with their family, household goods, and some provisions; while others knew not the fate of their friends, and had lost all their goods. The scene was indescribable, and I am sure would have melted the hearts of any people upon earth, except our blind oppressors, and a prejudiced and ignorant community. Next day, our company still increased, and we were chiefly engaged in felling small cotton wood trees, and erecting them into temporary cabins, so when night again came on, we had the appearance of a village of wigwams, and the night being clear, we began to enjoy some degree of comfort.

About 2 o'clock the next morning, we were aroused from our slumbers by the cry of "Arise, and behold the signs in the heavens." We arose, and to our great astonishment, all Heaven seemed enwrapt in a splendid fireworks, as if every star in the broad expanse, had been suddenly hurled from its course, and sent lawless through the wilds of ether. I can give the reader no better idea of this scene, than by allusion to the shooting of a bright meteor, with a long train of light following its course, such as most of us have seen in a bright starlight night. Now suppose that thousands of such meteors with their fiery trains, were to run lawless through the Heavens for hours together, this would be a scene such as our eyes beheld on that memorable morning; and the scene only closed by giving place to the superior light and splendor of the king of day. No sooner was this scene beheld by some of our camp than the news reached every tent, and aroused every one from their slumbers; every eye was lifted towards the Heavens, and every heart was filled with joy at this majestic display of signs and wonders showing the near approach of the coming of the Son of God.

In fact we looked up and lifted up our heads rejoicing, knowing that our redemption drew near. It is a singular coincidence that this wonder should happen at the very time of our dispersion. And let others think as they may, I take it as a special manifestation to fulfil the scriptures, and to rouse our drooping spirits, by a fresh memorial, reminding us of a coming Messiah, for the redemption of those who look for him; and to the destruction of their oppressors.

After a few days, I sent a lad with a horse for my wife, who escaped in safety, by riding 15 miles on horseback; leaving all our goods, which, however, I afterwards obtained, at the risk of my life. But all my provisions for the winter were destroyed or plundered; and my grain left growing on the ground, for our enemies to harvest. My house was afterwards burned, and my apple trees, rails and improvements destroyed or plundered. In short, every member of the society was driven from the county, and fields of corn were plundered and destroyed. Stacks of wheat were burned—

household goods plundered, and improvements and every kind of property lost; and at length no less than TWO HUNDRED AND THREE HOUSES BURNED, according to the estimate of their own people in Jackson.

The Saints who fled, took refuge in the neighboring counties—mostly in Clay county, which received them with some degree of kindness. Those who fled to the county of Van Buren were again driven, and compelled to flee; and those who fled to Lafayette county, were soon expelled, or the most part of them, and had to move wherever they could find protection.

When the news of these outrages reached the Governor of the state, courts of inquiry, both civil and military, were ordered by him; but nothing effectual was ever done to restore our rights, or to protect us in the least. It is true the attorney general, with a military escort and our witnesses, went to Jackson county and demanded indictments, but the court and jurors refused to do any thing in the case, and the military and witnesses were mobbed out of the county and thus that matter ended. The governor also ordered them to restore our arms which they had taken from us, but they never were restored; and even our lands in that county were robbed of their timber, and either occupied by our enemies for years, or left desolate.

Soon after Jackson county had rebelled against the laws and constitution, several of the adjoining counties followed her example by justifying her proceedings, and by opposing the saints in settling among them; and soon this rebellion became general in the upper country. The counties of Clay, Ray, Clinton, and various others, held public meetings, the tenor of which was, to deprive the members of our society of citizenship, and to drive them from among them, and force them to settle only in such places as the mob should dictate; and even at that time some of their proceedings went so far as to publicly threaten to drive the whole Society from the state. The excuses they offered for these outrages, were, 1st, The Society were principally guilty of being eastern or northern people. 2nd, They were guilty of some slight variations, in manners and language, from the other citizens of the state. 3rd, Their religious principles differed in some important particulars from most other societies. 4th, They were guilty of emigrating rapidly from the different states, and of purchasing large quantities of land, and of being more enterprising and industrious than some of their neighbors.—5th, Some of our Society were guilty of poverty, especially those who had been driven from time to time from their possessions, and robbed of their all. And lastly, they were said to be guilty of believing in the present government administration of Indian affairs, viz: that the land west of the Mississippi, which government has deeded in fee simple to the emigrating tribes, was destined by Providence for their permanent homes. All these crimes were charged upon our Society, in the public proceedings of the several counties; and were deemed sufficient to justify their unlawful proceedings against us. The reader may smile at this statement, but the public journals published in that county in 1835, actually printed charges and declarations against us of the tenor of the foregoing. By these wicked proceedings our people were once more compelled to remove, at a great sacrifice of property, and were at last permitted to settle in the north of Ray county; where, by the next legislature, they were organized into the counties of Caldwell and Daviess. Here they again exerted the utmost industry and enterprise, and these wild regions soon presented a more flourishing aspect than the oldest counties of the upper country. In the mean time a majority of the state so far countenanced these outrages, that they actually elected Lilburn W. Boggs, one of the old mobbers of Jackson county, who had assisted in the treason, murder, and house-burning, plundering, robbery, and driving out of twelve hundred citizens, in 1833, for governor of the state, and placed him in the executive chair, instead of a solitary cell in the state penitentiary, as his crimes justly deserved. This movement may be said to have put an end to liberty, law, and government in that state.—About this time, also, Colonel Lucas, whose name was attached to the written circular of the first conspiracy in Jackson county, was advanced to the office of Major General, instead of being hung for treason. Moses Wilson, one of the head leaders of the mob, was advanced to the office of Brigadier General; and Thomas Wilson, another of the Jackson county mob, was elected a Captain of the Militia.

The reader will recollect that in a former part of this history, these Wilsons are represented as acting a most forward part in all the murders, house-burning, robbing, and driving; and that Thomas Wilson, in particular, went so far as to fire upon certain prisoners, and to knock down one while in care of an officer, who was committing them to jail. These crimes, which in a country of laws would have hanged them or imprisoned them for life, so far exalted them in the eyes of their associates, that their worthy deeds proved a step stone to office. They all very readily received their commissions from their accomplice, Governor Boggs; and thus corruption, rebellion, and conspiracy had spread on every side, being fostered and encouraged by a large majority of the state: and thus the treason became general.

In the meantime our Society had greatly increased by a rapid emigration, and having long felt the withering hand of oppression from so corrupt an administration, they had endeavored to organize themselves both civil and military, in the counties where they composed the majority, by electing such officers as they thought would stand for equal rights, and for the laws and constitution of the country. And in this way they hoped to withstand the storm which had so long beat upon them, and whose black clouds now seemed lowering in awful gloom, and preparing to burst, with overwhelming fury, upon all who dare to stand for liberty and law.

On the Fourth of July, 1838, many thousands of our people assembled at the city of Far West, the county seat of Caldwell, erected a liberty pole, and hoisted the bold eagle, with its stars and stripes, upon the top of the same. Under the colours of our country we laid the corner stone of a house of worship, and had an address delivered by Elder Rigdon, in which was painted in lively colors, the oppression which we had long suffered from the hand of our enemies. In this discourse we claimed and declared our constitutional rights, as American citizens, and manifested a determination to do our utmost endeavors, from that time forth, to resist all oppression, and to maintain our rights and freedom according to the holy principles of liberty, as guaranteed to every person by the constitution and laws of our government. This declaration was received with shouts of hosannah to God and the Lamb, and with many and long cheers by the assembled thousands, who were determined to yield their rights no more, except compelled by a superior power.

But in a day or two after these transactions, the thunder rolled in awful majesty over the city of Far West, and the arrows of lightning fell from the clouds and shivered the liberty pole from top to bottom; thus manifesting to many that there was an end to liberty and law in that state, and that our little city strove in vain to maintain the liberties of a country which was ruled by wickedness and rebellion. It seemed to portend the awful fate which awaited that devoted city, and the county and people around. Soon after these things, the war clouds began again to lower, with dark and threatening aspect. The rebellious party in the counties around had long watched our increasing power and prosperity with greedy and avaricious eyes, and they had already boasted that as soon as we had made some fine improvements, and a plentiful crop, they would drive us from the state, and again enrich themselves with the spoils. Accordingly, at an election held in Daviess county, the robbers undertook to drive our people from the poll-box, and threatened to kill whoever should attempt to vote.

But some were determined to enjoy their right or die; they therefore went forward to vote, but were seized by the opposing party and attacked, and thus a fight commenced. But some of our people knocked down several of the robbers, and thus cleared the ground and maintained their rights, though vastly unequal in numbers. The news of this affair soon spread far and wide, and caused the people to rally, some for liberty and some to support the robbers in their daring outrages. About one hundred and fifty of our people went the next day, to the residence of the leaders in this outrage, and soon an agreement was signed for peace. But this was of short duration, for the conspirators were stirred up throughout the whole State, being alarmed for fear the Mormons, as they called them, should become so formidable as to maintain their rights and liberties, insomuch that they could no more drive and plunder them. About this time, meetings were held by the robbers in Carroll, Saline, and other counties, in which they openly declared their treasonable and murderous intentions of driving the citizens who belonged to our society from their counties, and if possible, from the State. Resolutions to this effect were published in the journals of Upper Missouri, and this without a single remark of disapprobation. Nay more, this murderous gang when assembled and painted like Indian warriors, and when openly committing murder, robbery, and house burning, were denominated citizens, white people, &c., in most of the papers of the State, while our Society who stood firm in the cause of liberty and law, were denominated Mormons, in contradistinction to the appellation of citizens, whites, &c., as if we had been some savage tribe, or some colored race of foreigners. The robbers soon assembled, to the number of several hundred, under arms, and rendezvoused in Daviess County, being composed of individuals from many of the counties around. Here they commenced firing upon our citizens, and taking prisoners. Our people made no resistance, except to assemble on their own ground for defence. They also made oath before the Circuit Judge, A. A. King, to the above outrages. One thousand men were then ordered into service, under the command of Major General Atchison, and Brigadier Generals Parks and Doniphan. These were soon mustered and marched through Caldwell, and took their stand in Daviess County, where most of them remained thirty days. The robbers were somewhat awed by these prompt measures, so that they did not proceed farther at that time in Daviess, but they proceeded to De Witt, a small town in Carroll county, which was mostly settled by our people. Here they laid siege for several days, and subsisted by plunder and robbery, watching every opportunity to fire upon our citizens. At this time they had one field piece, and were headed by a Presbyterian priest by the name of Sashel Woods, who, it is said tended prayer night and morning, at the head of the gang. In this siege they say that they killed a number of our people. They also turned one Smith Humphrey and his wife and children out of doors when sick, and set fire to their house, and burned it to ashes before their eyes. At length they succeeded in driving every citizen from the place, to the sacrifice of every thing which they could not take with them.

This event happened during a cold, bad spell of weather, in October, and as many of the citizens were sickly, and robbed of shelter and of every thing comfortable, they came near perishing; some of them did perish before they arrived in Caldwell, a distance of some sixty miles. Here they were hospitably taken in by their brethren. Even two or three families often crowded into one small house. The militia under General Parks made some show of trying to prevent these outrages, but at length General Parks informed our people that his forces were so small, and many of them so much in favor of the rebellion, that it was useless to look any longer to them for protection.

Several messages were also sent to the Governor, but he was utterly deaf to every thing which called for the protection of our Society, or any of the citizens who belonged to it. But on the contrary, he hearkened to the insinuations of the robbers; and actually presumed to give orders for the raising of several thousand volunteers from the middle counties of the State, to march against the Mormons, as he termed them. This force was soon on their march with the Governor at their head; but when he had come near the Upper Country, he was officially notified that the Mormons were not in a state of insurrection, but were misrepresented by the robbers. His Excellency, then disbanded his forces and sneaked back to Jefferson City to wait till the robbers should drive the Mormons to some act which might be considered illegal, which would give him some pretext for driving them from the State.

After the evacuation of Dewitt, when our people were officially notified that they must protect themselves, and expect no more protection from any department of the State Government, they assembled in the city of Far West, to the number of near one thousand men, and resolved to defend their rights to the last; calling upon every person who could bear arms to come forward in the support of our houses, our homes, our wives and children, and the cause of our country and our God. In the mean time the robbers elated with success, and emboldened by the negligence of every department of the State Government, were increasing in numbers daily, and were on their march for Daviess, with their artillery and military stores, declaring that they would now drive the citizens from Caldwell counties, which were settled mostly by our people. In this march they took a number of the citizens prisoners, among whom was Amasa Lyman, a minister of the Gospel, and an excellent citizen of Caldwell county. They kept him a number of days, while his wife and children mourned his absence, and they held frequent consultations to kill him, but at length he was set at liberty. Our forces assembled in Daviess county to the number of several hundred, to protect their houses; and at length a detachment of about one hundred men, under the command of Col. D. W. Patten, met the robbers, and took from them their artillery, which consisted of one six pounder, and some powder and balls also were taken from the enemy. All this was done without bloodshed, as the robbers buried their cannon in the earth and fled at the first news of the approach of our army. While the army were busily engaged in searching the camp of the robbers to find their field piece, a young lad saw some swine rooting in the middle of the highway, and he at length discovered some projecting part of the cannon, which had been uncovered by the swine, and he exclaimed, "here is the cannon." At this, the soldiers gathered round, and soon raised the monster from its untimely grave. It was taken in triumph to the city of Diahman, and there on the heights of Daviess, amid rejoicing thousands, it uttered its voice in favor of liberty and law, and told the sad tale for some twenty miles around, that the robbers had lost their God of war, notwithstanding the pious prayers of priest Wood. On another occasion the Robbers were transporting a waggon load of arms and ammunition from Ray county to Daviess, through Caldwell county, but in Caldwell they providentially broke their wagon. In the mean time our sheriff got wind of the movements, and went with a company of Caldwell militia, and took the arms and ammunition and brought them in triumph to the city of Far West, where they helped to arm the patriotic citizens for defence. About the time of the taking of the cannon a small party of our men, under the command of the brave Lieut. B. went out through Daviess among those who pretended great friendship for the laws, but were secretly aiding the robbers. This party pretended to be men from the Platt, who had come down to assist the robbers against the citizens, or Mormons as they were called. Under this disguise their horses and themselves were fed free of cost, and welcomed every where to all they could eat and drink, and many furnished them rifles, and ammunition, together with coats, blankets, &c., wishing them success. Sometimes they would offer to pay for their entertainment, but their zealous hosts refused to take pay, and wished that their horses could eat a thousand bushels of grain, for they were more than welcome

In this way our troops were supplied with considerable armament, and their secret enemies were discovered and detected in their wicked plottings. During this time the robbers were busily engaged in burning and plundering houses, and driving women and children from their homes, to perish with hunger and cold, while they were robbed of every thing they possessed, and their houses burned to ashes. Hundreds were thus compelled to flee to the cities and strongholds; women and children came in by night and by day; and some of them in the midst of a tremendous snow storm, in which they came near perishing; but those who fled were kindly received into the houses of their brethren, and thus their lives were spared, but only to witness a more dreadful scene at hand. It is said that some of our troops, exasperated to the highest degree, retaliated in some instances by plundering and burning houses, and bringing the spoil to feed the hungry and clothe the naked, whose provisions and clothing had been robbed from them; and upon the whole, I am rather inclined to believe it was the case; for human nature cannot endure all things.

Soon after these things had transpired in Daviess county, Caldwell was threatened from every quarter, and her citizens assembled in Far West, many of them moving their wives and children, goods, provisions, and even houses into the city, leaving their lands desolate, in order that they might be embodied and prepared to defend themselves and families to the last. Our Colonel and his other commissioned officers, had the troops paraded night and morning on the public square, and ordered them to be always ready in case of alarm. When we were dismissed at eve, we were ordered to sleep in our clothes, and be ready at a moments warning, to run together at any hour of the night. During this state of alarm, the drum was beat, and guns fired, one night, about midnight. I ran to the public square, where many had already collected together, and the news was that the south part of our county, adjoining Ray, was attacked by a mob, who were plundering houses, threatening women and children, and taking peaceable citizens prisoners; and telling families to begone by the next morning or they would burn their houses over their heads. With this information, Captain Killian (to whom Col. Hinckle had committed the command of the troops in Far West, when he himself was not present) sent out a detachment under the command of Captain Durphey, aided by the brave D. W. Patton. This company, consisting of about sixty men, was sent to see what the matter was on the lines; and who was committing depredations, and if necessary, to protect or move in the families and property; and if possible, effect the release of the prisoners.

This company was soon under way, having to ride some ten or twelve miles mostly through extensive prairies. It was October, the night was dark, and as we moved briskly on, (being forbidden to speak a loud word,) no sound was heard but the rumbling of our horses' hoofs over the wide extended and lonely plains. While the distant plains far and wide, were illuminated by blazing fires; and immense columns of smoke were seen rising in awful majesty, as if the world was on fire, This scene of grandeur can only be comprehended by those who are acquainted with the scenes of prairie burning. As the fire sweeps over millions of acres of dry grass in the fall season, and leaves a smooth black surface, divested of all vegetation. The thousand meteors blazing in the distance like the camp fires of some war host, throw a fitful gleam of light upon the distant sky, which many might mistake for the Aurora Borealis. This scene added to the silence of midnight—the rumbling sound of the prancing steeds—the glittering of arms—and the unknown destiny of the expedition—all combined to impress the mind with deep and solemn thoughts; and to throw a romantic vision over the imagination, which is not often experienced, except in the poet's dream, or the wild imagery of sleeping fancy. In this solemn procession we moved on for some two hours, when it was supposed that we were in the neighborhood of danger. We were then ordered to dismount and leave our horses in care of part of the company, while the others should proceed on foot along the principal highway, to see what discoveries could be made. This precaution was for fear we might be suddenly attacked, in which event we could do better on foot than on horse back. We had not proceeded far when as we entered the wilderness, we were suddenly fired upon by an unknown enemy, in ambush. First one solitary gun, as was supposed, from some out post of the enemy, brought one of our number to the ground, where he lay groaning while the rest of the troop had to pass directly by his dying body. It was dawn of day in the eastern horison, but darkness still hovered over the awful scene. When our men saw that they were ambushed and attacked, they found it too late to retreat, and orders were issued to form along in the brush, and under the cover of trees, which was instantly done, while the enemy, though unseen, were pouring in a deadly fire upon our whole line. We soon returned the fire, and charging upon the enemy, the whole wilderness seemed for a few moments as if wrapped in a blaze of lightning; and overwhelmed with the sharp crack of peals of thunder. The enemy were soon driven from their ambush and completely routed. Having a creek immediately in their rear, many were seen forcing their retreat through the stream, and up to their arms in water. The firing now ceased, and the whole battle ground resounded with the watchword, God and Liberty. Our forces which had been thrown into some disorder, were instantly formed, and their pieces reloaded, while here and there over the battle ground, lay the dead and wounded. The enemy had left their horses, saddles, camp and baggage, in the confusion of their flight, which fell into our hands. Their baggage wagon was immediately harnessed to a couple of horses, and the wounded were picked up and laid in it upon blankets, while every man saddled and mounted a horse, and we commenced our retreat to the place where we had left our horses and guard, a distance of more than a mile; here we halted, and laid our wounded upon blankets, on the ground, while we made arrangements in the wagon for them to ride more comfortably. There were about six of our men badly wounded, among whom was the brave D. W. Patten, a ball having entered the lower part of his body. It was an awful sight to see them pale and helpless, and hear their groans. We had as yet lost but one man, who was left dead on the ground; his name was Gideon Carter. The enemy had one killed and four wounded, as we afterwards learned. We ascertained from the prisoners whom we had rescued, and one whom we had taken, that the enemy consisted of one Captain Bogart and his company, who together with some volunteers from different neighborhoods, numbered about 60 men. Our party engaged, was from forty to fifty in number. At the time of the engagement, there were three of our fellow citizens prisoners in their camp. Two of them ran away and escaped in the commencement of the firing, and the other was shot through the body in trying to run to our lines, but fortunately he recovered, and is now a witness against them.

Having now arranged every thing to the best advantage for the wounded, we moved on slowly towards Far West. When we came within five miles of the city, our express had reached there with the news of the battle, and we were met by a surgeon and others for our relief, and among others the wife of the pale and dying Patten.

Our wounded were now taken into a house, and their wounds dressed; and as Mrs. Patten entered the room and cast her eyes on the pale and ghastly features of her husband, she burst into tears, exlaiming O God! O my husband!

how pale you look! He was still able to speak, but he died that evening in the triumphs of faith; having laid down his life as a martyr in the cause of his country and his God. The young Obanion, who was shot through the body by the first fire of the enemy's sentinel, also died about the same time. Thus three brave men had fallen; and their blood cries against their enemies for vengeance. The others I believe recovered of their wounds. Having conveyed the wounded to this place of hospitality, we hastened home to Far West, and delivered the horses and spoils of the enemy to Col. Hinkle, the commanding officer of the regiment. These several defeats of the mob in Daviess and Caldwell, checked, for a time, their ruinous ravages. They saw that it was impossible to conquer a people who were fighting for their homes, and their wives and children, unless they could come against them with some show of authority, for it was a well known fact, that the Mormons never resisted authority, however abused; therefore their next exertion was to spread lies and falsehoods of the most alarming character; such as that the Mormons were in a state of rebellion against the government, and that they were about to burn Richmond, &c. This flame was greatly assisted by several in high authority who dissented from the Church, and fell away to the robbers because of fear, and also for the sake of power and gain. These dissenters became far more false, hardened and blood-thirsty, than those who had never known the way of righteousness, insomuch that they were filled with all manner of lying and murders, and plundering. The Governor who had long sought some opportunity to destroy us, and drive us from the State, now issued an order for General Clark to raise several thousand men, and march against the Mormons, and drive them from the State, or exterminate them, if necessary, etc. While General Clark was mustering his forces for this murderous and treasonable enterprize, Major General Lucas, and Brigadier General Wilson, the old leaders of the Jackson county conspiracy, being nearer the scene of action, and wishing to immortalize their names, put themselves at the head of the old Jackson county robbers, together with the late forces of the robbers who had all the while been embodied against us, and turning the brave and humane General Atchison out of the command, took lead of all the assembled forces of the upper country, consisting of three or four thousand men, and with his formidable force, commenced their march directly for the city of Far West, where they arrived, while General Clark and his forces were several days march in the rear. In the mean time, the Governor's Order, and all these military movements, were kept an entire secret from the Mormons, and even the mail was withheld from Far West, thus cutting off all intelligence. We had only heard that companies of armed men were seen in the south part of the county: and we had sent a white flag and a guard of one hundred and fifty men, to make inquiries. But while they were absent on this business, an alarm came to town that the whole county to the South of us was filled with hostile troops, who were murdering, plundering, and taking peaceable citizens prisoners, in their own houses, etc. On receiving this intelligence, every man flew to arms, for the protection of our city. It was now towards evening, and we had heard nothing of our white flag, and the hundred and fifty men who went South in the morning. While we stood in our armor, gazing to the South in anxious suspense, we discovered an army advancing on horse back, over the hills, at two miles distance from the town. We at first supposed it might be our little company of a hundred and fifty returning to us, but we soon saw that there were thousands of men, with a long train of baggage waggons; we then were in hopes that it might be some frendly troops sent for our protection; and then we thought it might be a troop of the robbers coming to destroy us. At all events, there was no time to be lost, for although our force then present did not exceed five hundred men, yet we did not intend that they should enter the town without giving some account of themselves.—We accordingly marched out upon the plains on the South of the city. and formed in battle array, extending our line of foot something like a half mile, while a small company of horse was posted on our right wing on a commanding eminence, and another small company on the rear of our main body, intended as a kind of reserve. By this time the sun was near setting, and the advance of the unknown army had come within plain view at less than one mile distant. On seeing our forces presenting a small but formidable front, they came to a halt, and formed along the borders of the wilderness. And in a few moments both parties sent out a white flag, which met between the armies; when our messenger demanded who they were, and what was their intentions? The answer was, that they wanted three persons out of the city before they massacred the rest. This was a very alarming and unexpected answer. But they were soon prevailed upon to suspend hostilities till morning, when we were in hopes of some further and more satisfactory information. The hostile army under the command of Lucas, then commenced their encampment for the night, and our little army continued to stand to their arms for fear of some treachery. Our company of a hundred and fifty soon returned, informing us that they had been hemmed in through the day, and only escaped, from their superior knowledge of the ground. We also sent an express to Davies county, and by morning were reinforced by quite a number of troops, with Colonel Wight at their head. In the mean time, the painted robbers and murderers under the command of one Gillum, came pouring in from the west, to strengthen the enemy, and another company of murderers came in from Carroll county, and were taken into the ranks of Lucas, after murdering some twenty of our citizens at Haun's mill, of which I will give a particular account hereafter. Thus both parties were considerably reinforced during the night. In the mean time our people, being determined, if attacked, to defend their homes, and wives and children to the last, spent the night in throwing up a temporary breastwork of building timber, logs, rails, &c., and by morning our south side of the city was fortified with a breastwork, and also a considerable part of the east and west sides; the whole line of fortification extending a mile and a half. This nights labor may seem incredible; but it happened that a great quantity of building materials had been accumulated; near the spot where were thrown up the breast-works; and this proved an excellent material for the work. The next day, towards evening, we were informed that the Governor had ordered his force against us, with orders to exterminate us or drive us from the State. As soon as these facts were ascertained, we determined not to resist any thing in the shape of authority, however tyrannical or unconstitutional might be the proceedings against us; therefore we had nothing more to do but to submit, to be massacred or driven, at the option of our persecutors. Colonel Hinkle waited on Messrs. J. Smith, S. Rigdon, Hiram Smith, L. Wight, George Robinson and myself, with a polite request from General Lucas, that we would surrender ourselves as prisoners, and repair to his camp, and remain over night, with assurances that as soon as peaceable arrangements could be entered into next morning, we should be released. With this request we readily complied, as soon as we were assured by the pledge of the honor of the principal officers, that our lives should be safe; we accordingly walked near a mile voluntarily, towards the camp of the enemy; who when they saw us coming, came out to meet us by thousands, with General Lucas at their head. When the haughty General rode up to us, and scarcely passing a compliment, gave orders to his troops to surround us, which they did very abruptly, and we were marched in to camp, surrounded by thousands of savage looking beings, many of whom were painted like indian warriors. These all set up a continual yell, like so many blood hounds let loose on their prey, as if they had achieved one of the most miraculous victories which ever dignified the annals of the world. In camp we were placed under a strong guard; before morning, A. Lyman and several others were added to our number. We hardly got an interview with the General that evening; he maintained a most haughty and unsociable reserve; but a hint was given us that the general officers held a secret council which they dignified a Court Martial; in which without being heard or even brought before them, we were all sentenced to be shot; and the day and hour appointed; as we learned afterwards by General Doniphan, who was one of the council, but who was so violently opposed to this cool blooded murder, that he assured them that he would revolt and withdraw his whole brigade, if they persisted in so dreadful a proceeding. his remonstrance and a few others so alarmed the haughty murderer and his accomplices that they dare not put the decree in execution; and thus through a merciful providence of God, our lives were spared through that dreadful night, which was spent by us on the ground in the open air, amid the most horrid imprecations, threats and insults, that ever was witnessed, even in the abodes of the damned. News reached us by their own troops before morning, that they had murdered one prisoner on their march the day they entered Caldwell, by knocking out his brains, and also, that several of our citizens were lying here and there unburied, whom they had shot down and murdered in cold blood, and also that several females had been ravished, and much robbery committed, besides the beef and corn which was taken from us to support three or four thousand men and horses for several days. No pen need undertake to describe our feelings while there confined; not knowing the fate of our wives and children, and our brethren and sisters, and seeing no way for our lives to be saved, except by the miraculous power of God. But notwithstanding all earthly hopes were gone, still we felt a calmness indescribable, and a secret whispering, portending that our work was not yet done, and therefore our enemies would be restrained from taking our lives. While in this situation, Wm. E. M'Lellin, (who had once been intimate with me as a fellow laborer in the Gospel, having dissented from the Church) came to me, (being one of the soldiers against us) and observed, well Parley, you have now got where you are certain never to escape; how do you feel as to the course you have taken in religion? I replied that I had taken that course which I should take if I had my life to live over again. He seemed thoughtful for a moment, and then replied, well I think if I were you, I should die

After about a week spent in this way, during which I was at one time alone in the wilderness, more than a mile from town, we were at length (after repeated demands) sent to General Clark, at Richmond. This place was on the same side of Missouri that Far West was, and about thirty miles distant. Generals Lucas and Wilson had tried in vain to get a guard to accompany us; none would volunteer, and when drafted, they would not obey orders; for, in truth, they wished us to go at liberty. At last a colonel and two or three officers started with us, with their swords and pistols, which was more to protect us than keep us from escaping. On this journey some of us rode in carriages, and some on horseback. Sometimes we were sixty or eighty rods in front or rear of our guard, who, by the by, were three sheets in the wind, in the whiskey line, having a bottle in their pockets; but knowing that we were not guilty of any crime, we did not wish to escape by flight. At night, having crossed the ferry, we put up at a private house. Here our guards all went to bed and to sleep, leaving us their pistols to defend ourselves in case of any attack from without, as we were in a very hostile neighborhood.

Next morn we rode a few miles, and were met by an express from Gen. Clark, at Richmond, consisting of Col. Price and a company of soldiers, who immediately surrounded us with poised pieces, in regular military order, as if we had been Bonaparte and his body guards, on a march to St. Helena; thinking perhaps, that if we should escape the whole United States and all Europe would be immediately overthrown. In this way we were escorted to Richmond, the head Quarters of Maj. Gen. Clark and his army, which was composed of three or four thousand men. Here, as usual, we had to endure the gaze of the curious, as if we had been a caravan of exhibiting animals. We were conducted with some military parade, into a block house, and immediately put in chains, besides a strong guard, who stood over us night and day, with presented rifles and pistols. We were soon introduced to Gen. Clark, who seemed more haughty, unfeeling, and reserved, than even Lucas or Wilson.

as I had lived: at any rate, I see no possibility of escape for you and your friends. This little interview gave us to understand that our doom was fixed in the minds of the people.

Next morning General Lucas demanded the Caldwell militia to give up their arms, which was done, to the number of upwards of five hundred. The rest of the troops having fled during the night. After the troops had surrendered, the city of Far West was surrounded by the robbers, and all the men detained as prisoners, none being permitted to pass out of the city, although their families were starving for want of sustenance. The mills and provisions being some distance from the city. The brutal mob were now turned loose to ravage, steal, plunder and murder without restraint. Houses were rifled, and women ravished, and goods taken as they pleased. On the third morning after our imprisonment, we were placed in a wagon, in order for removal, and many of the more desperate then crowded round, and cocking their rifles, swore they would blow us through. Some guns were snapped, but happily ceased fire, and the rest were in a small degree restrained by the officers, and we still lived. We were now marched to Far West, and each one was permitted to go with a guard and take a final leave of our families, in order to depart as prisoners, to Jackson county, a distance of some 60 miles. This was the most trying scene of all. I went to my house, being guarded by two or three soldiers. The rain was pouring down without, and on entering my little cottage, there lay my wife, sick of a fever, with which she had been for some time confined. At her breast was an infant three months old, and by her side a little girl three years of age. These constituted my household, no other person belonged to my family. On the foot of the same bed lay a woman in travail, who had been driven from her house in the night, and had taken momentary shelter in my little hut of ten feet square, (my larger house having been torn down.) I stepped to the bed—she burst into tears—I spoke a few words of comfort, telling her to try to live for my sake, and her little babes, and expressing a hope that we should meet again, though years might separate us. She promised to try to live, and though an age should separate us, we would live for each other. I then kissed the little babes and departed. Till now I had refrained from weeping, but to be forced from so helpless a family, who were destitute of provisions and fuel, in a bleak prairie with none to assist them, and exposed to a lawless banditti, who were utter strangers to humanity, and this at the approach of winter, was more than nature could well bear. I went to General Wilson in tears, and stated the circumstances of my sick, heart-broken and destitute family, in terms which would have moved any heart which had a latent spark of humanity yet remaining. But I was only answered with an exulting laugh, and a taunt of triumph, from this hardened murderer.

As I returned from my house towards the main body of the army who were to conduct us, I halted with the guard at the door of Hiram Smith, and heard the sobs and groans of his wife, at his parting words. She was about to be confined in child-birth, when he left her to accompany us. As we returned to the wagon we saw S. Rigdon taking leave of his wife and daughters, who stood at a little distance in tears of anguish inexpressible; whilst in the wagon sat Joseph Smith; while his aged father and venerable mother came up overwhelmed in tears, and took us all by the hand.

In the mean time, hundreds of the brethren crowded around us, anxious to take a parting look, or a silent shake of the hand, for feelings were too intense to allow of speech. In the midst of these scenes, orders were given, and we moved slowly on, surrounded by a brigade of Jackson and Van Buren county troops.—After marching about twelve miles, we encamped for the night on Crooked River. Here General Wilson began to treat us more kindly; he became very sociable, conversing freely on the subject of his former murders and robberies, committed against us in Jackson. He did not pretend to deny any thing, but spoke upon the whole as frank as if he had been giving the history of something done in ages past, with which we were not personally concerned. He also informed us that he had been exhorted by many to hang us on the way to Jackson, but he should not suffer us to be injured. Indeed, it was now evident that he was proud of his prey, and felt highly enthusiastic in having the honor of returning in triumph to the town of Independence, with the exhibition of his prisoners, whom his superstition had magnified into Noble or Royal personages; who would be gazed upon as Kings, or as something supernatural.

Next morning we were on our march, and in the after part of the day, we came to the Missouri River, which separated between Jackson county and us. Here the brigade was halted, and the prisoners taken to a public house, where we were permitted to shave our beards and change our linen, after which we partook of some refreshment. This done, we were hurried to the ferry, and across the river with the utmost haste, when but a few of the troops had passed. This movement was soon explained to us. The truth was, General Clark had sent an express to take us from General Wilson, and prevent us from going to Jackson, as both armies were competitors for the honor of possessing the wonderful, or in their estimation, Royal Prisoners. Clark and his troops from a distance, who had not arrived in the city of Far West till after our departure, was desirous of seeing the strange men, whom it was said had turned the world upside down; and was desirous of the honor of possessing such a wonderful trophy of victory, or of putting us to death himself. And on the other hand Wilson, Lucas, and their troops, were determined to exhibit us in triumph through the streets of Independence. Therefore when demanded by General Clark's express, they refused to surrender us, and hurried us across the ferry with all possible dispatch; after which, marching about a mile, we camped in the wilderness for the night, with about fifty troops for our guard, the remainder not crossing the ferry till next morning.

Next morning being Sunday, we were visited by some gentlemen and ladies. One of the women came up and very candidly enquired of the troops, which of the prisoners was the Lord whom the Mormons worshipped? One of the guard pointed to Mr. Smith, with a significant smile, and said this is he. The women then turning to Mr. S., inquired whether he professed to be Lord and Saviour? Do not smile gentle reader, at the ignorance of these poor innocent creatures, who are thus kept under, and made to believe such absurdities by their men, and by their lying Priests. Mr. S. replied, that he professed to be nothing but a man, and a minister of salvation sent by Jesus Christ to preach the Gospel. This answer so surprised the woman, that she began to inquire into our doctrine; and Mr. Smith preached a discourse both to her and her companions, and to the wondering soldiers who listened with almost breathless attention while he set forth the doctrine of faith in Jesus Christ, and repentance and baptism for remission of sins, with the promise of the Holy Ghost, as recorded in the second chapter of the Acts of the Apostles. The woman was satisfied and praised God in the hearing of the soldiers, and went away praying that God would protect and deliver us. Thus was fulfilled a prophecy which had been spoken publicly by Mr. Smith, a few months previous; for he had prophesied that a sermon should be preached in Jackson county, by one of our Elders, before the close of 1838.

About 10 o'clock the brigade had all crossed the ferry and come up with us. We were then marched forward in our carriages, while the troops were formed in our front and rear, with quite a martial appearance. As we went through the settlements, hundreds of men, women, and children flocked to see us, and our general oft halted the whole brigrde to introduce us to the ladies and gentlemen, pointing out each of his prisoners by name. We were oft shaken by the hand; and, in the ladies at least, there often appeared some feelings of sympathy. In this way we proceeded until we arrived at Independence. It was now past noon, and in the midst of a great rain. But hundreds crowded to witness the procession, and to gaze at us as we were paraded in martial triumph through all the principal streets—our carriages moving in the centre, while the brigade on horseback were formed in front and rear, and the bugles sounded a blast of triumphant joy.

This ceremony being finished, a vacant house was prepared for our reception, into which we were ushered through the crowd of spectators who thronged every avenue. The troops were then disbanded. In the mean time we were kept under a small guard, and were treated with some degree of hospitality and politeness, while thousands flocked to see us day after day. We spent most of our time in preaching and conversation, explanatory of our doctrines and practice, which removed mountains of prejudice, and enlisted the populace in our favor, notwithstanding their old hatred and wickedness towards our Society.

We were soon at liberty to walk the streets without a guard; and soon we were removed from our house of confinement to a hotel, where we were entertained in the best style of which the place was capable, which was lodging on the floor, and a block of wood for a pillow. We had no longer any guard—we went out and came in when we pleased, a certain keeper being appointed merely to look to us; with him we walked out of town and visited the desolate lands which belonged to our Society, and the place which, seven years before, we had dedicated and consecrated for the building of a temple, it being a beautiful rise of ground, about half a mile west of Independence. When we saw it last it was a wilderness, but now our enemies had robbed it of every stick of timber, and it presented a beautiful rolling field of pasture, being covered with grass. Oh, how many feelings did this spot awaken in our bosoms! Here we had often bowed the knee in prayer to Jehovah in by-gone years; and here we had assembled with hundreds of happy saints, in the solemn meeting, and offered our prayers and songs, and sacraments, in our humble dwellings; but now all was solemn and lonely desolation; not a vestige remained to mark the place where stood our former dwellings; they had long since been consumed by fire, or removed to the village and converted to the use of our enemies. While at Independence we were once or twice invited to dine with Gen. Wilson, and others, which we did with much apparent politeness and attention on their part, and much cheerfulness on our own.

We enquired of the General what were his intentions concerning us. I stated to him that we had now been captives for many days, and we knew not wherefore; nor whether we were considered prisoners of war, or prisoners of civil process, or prisoners of hope; at the same time remarking that all was wrapt in mystery; for as citizens of the United States, and of Missouri, in time of peace, we could not be considered as prisoners of war; and without civil process, we were not holden by civil authority; and as to being prisoners of hope, there was but little chance to hope from present appearances. He replied that we were taken in order to be tried. "Tried? by what authority?" I inquired. "By court martial," said he.—"What!" said I, "ministers of the gospel, who sustained no office or rank in military affairs, and who are not even subject by law to military duty, to be tried by court martial, and this in time of peace, and in a republic where the constitution guarantees to every citizen the right of trial by the jury." "Yes," said he, "this is according to the treaty stipulations entered into at Far West, at the time of the surrender, and as agreed to by Col. Hinkle, your commanding officer." "Colonel Hinkle, our commanding officer?" inquired I, "what has he to do with our civil rights? he was only the colonel of the Caldwell militia." "Why," said the General, "was he not the commanding officer of the fortress of Far West, the head quarters of the Mormon forces?" I replied that "we had no fortress, nor Mormon forces, but were part of the militia of the state of Missouri;" at which the General seemed surprised, and the conversation ended.

We were astonished above measure at proceedings so utterly ignorant and devoid of all law or justice. Here was a Major General, selected by the governor of Missouri, and sent to banish or exterminate a religious society. And then to crown the whole with inconceivable absurdity, this officer and his staff considered the state of Missouri a separate independent government, having a right to treat with a foreign nation, a right which belongs only to the United States, and not to any one State in the

Union. And then to cap the climax, he considers the Mormons a nation distinct from all other governments; and in fact enters into a treaty with the colonel of one of the regiments of their own state militia, which was at that time under his immediate command, as a part of his own force. Thus Colonel Hinkle, is converted into a foreign minister, an envoy extraordinary, in behalf of the Mormon empire, to enter into treaty stipulations with his Missouri Majesty's forces, under Generals Lucas, Wilson, and Clark. The city of Far West, the capitol of Mormonia, is the Ghent where this treaty of peace is ratified. After which the standing army of Mormonia stack their arms, which are carried in triumph to Richmond. The royal family and other nobles are surrendered in this treaty to be tried by court martial and punished, and the inhabitants of the fallen empire, like those of Poland, are to be banished to Illinois, instead of Siberia. But this banishment (more cruel than that of Poland by the Russians) is to include every man, woman and child of the whole empire, with the exception of a few who are retained in prison, and their women and children sent off from their homes and firesides to wander alone. And at the same time a deed of trust is drawn up, and all the Mormons are compelled, on pain of death, to sign away their houses, lands, and property, for the disposal of their conquerors.

We found on our arrival at Richmond, that all these things had actually taken place ; and in addition to all the rest of these unheard of outrages, eighteen of our citizens had been shot dead at Haun's Mill, in Caldwell county, and many others wounded, all this without making any resistance. The circumstances of this massacre were as follows: some two hundred robbers, on hearing of the governor's order for extermination, rushed suddenly upon some of our Society, who, on seeing them approach, took shelter in a log building which had been occupied as a blacksmith shop. On seeing their enemies approach in a hostile manner, they cried for quarters, but were instantly fired upon, and when most of them had fallen, and were lying in heaps, in the agonies of death, the murderers put their guns through the crevices between the logs, and shot the dead and dying through and through, as a token of bravery, and also to glut their bloodthirsty disposition.

A little boy had crawled under the bellows in hopes to escape; but, on being discovered, he was instantly shot. Another little boy, of nine years of age, whose father (Warren Smith) had just fell dead, cried out to the enemy to spare his life; but they replied, "Kill him—God damn it, kill him—he is the son of a damned Mormon!" At this they shot his head all open and laid him sprawling by his father; thus leaving Mrs. Smith to mourn the loss of husband and child both at once. This was a worthy family, from Ohio, who had long been near neighbors to me; and better neighbors I never had. About the same time, an old soldier of the revolution, by the name of McBride, came up to them and begged for his life; but they hewed him in pieces with some old pieces of a sythe. The women fled, but were fired upon; and one young lady (Mary Steadwell, from Ohio, who was a worthy lady, and had been a member of my family,) was shot in the hand while fleeing, and fell behind a log in time to save her life, just as a shower of balls struck it.

The robbers then loaded themselves with household plunder and departed. These particulars are as we have learned them; but being confined in prison, we lack much information on the subject of the Hauns' Mill massacre, which will doubtless be given in the writings of others. Now to return to the subject as we left it at Richmond.

I must not forget to state that when we arrived at Richmond as prisoners, there were some fifty others, mostly heads of families, who had been marched from Caldwell on foot, and were now penned up in a cold, open, unfinished court house; in which situation they remained for some weeks, while their families were suffering every thing but death. The next morning after my dialogue with Gen. Clark, he again entered our prison and informed us that he had concluded to deliver us over to the civil authorities for an examining trial. I then asked him why he did not do away the unlawful decree of banishment, which was first ordered by Gen. Lucas, in compliance with the governor's order, compelling all our people to leave the state by the next spring? He replied that he approved of all the proceedings of Gen. Lucas and should not alter them. I make this statement, because many writers have commanded Clark for his heroic, merciful, and prudent conduct towards our Society, and have endeavored to make it appear that Clark was not to be blamed for any of the measures of Lucas.

The court of enquiry now commenced, before Judge A. A. King. This continued from the 11th to the 28th of November, during which we were kept most of the time in chains, and our brethren, some fifty in number, were penned up in the open, unfinished court house.

It was a very severe spell of snow and winter weather, and we suffered much. During this time Elder Rigdon was taken very sick, from hardship and exposure, and finally lost his reason; but still he was kept in a miserable, noisy, and cold room, and compelled to sleep on the floor with a chain and padlock round his ankle, and fastened to six others; and here he endured the constant noise and confusion of an unruly guard who were changed every few hours, and who were frequently composed of the most noisy, foul-mouthed, vulgar, disgraceful, indecent rabble, that ever defiled the earth. While he lay in this situation, his son-in-law, George Robinson, the only male member of his numerous family, was chained by his side; and thus Mrs. Rigdon and her daughters were left entirely destitute and unprotected. One of his daughters, Mrs. Robinson, a young and delicate female, with her little infant, came down to see her husband, and to comfort and take care of her father in his sickness. When she first entered the room, amid the clank of chains and the bristle of weapons, and cast her eyes on her sick and dejected parent, and sorrow worn husband, she was speechless, and only gave vent to her feelings in a flood of tears. This faithful lady, with her little infant, continued by the bed of her father till he recovered from his sickness, and till his fevered and disordered mind assumed its wonted powers of intellect.

In this mock court of inquiry, the judge could not be prevailed on to examine the conduct of the murderers, robbers, and plunderers, who had desolated our Society. Nor would he receive testimony except against us. And by the dissenters and apostates who wished to save their own lives and secure their property at the expense of others; and by those who had murdered and plundered us from time to time, he obtained abundance of testimony, much of which was entirely false. Our Church organization was converted, by such testimony, into a temporal kingdom, which was to fill the whole earth, and subdue all other kingdoms. Much was inquired by the judge (who, by-the-bye, was a Methodist,) concerning the prophecy of Daniel—"In the days of these kings shall the God of Heaven set up a kingdom which shall break in pieces all other kingdoms, and stand forever," &c. "And the kingdom, and the greatness of the kingdom, under the whole Heaven, shall be given to the saints of the Most

High," &c. These texts, and many others, were inquired into with all the eagerness and apparent alarm which characterized a Herod of old, who feared a rival in the person of King Jesus, and who, after inquiring diligently into the prophesies concerning the birth of Christ, and on learning that Bethlehem was the honored place designated by the Jewish oracles for the birth place of Messiah, and on learning from the wise men of the east that he was already born, sent forth a cruel order for the extermination of the children of Bethlehem, from two years old and under. In this way Herod thought to falsify the oracles of God—to destroy the King of the Jews, and maintain his own usurpation of power. But, lo! he was disappointed. The angel of the Lord had caused the father and mother and infant to flee into Egypt. So this cruel judge decreed the destruction of the Church and Kingdom of God, in the last days. But we shall see, in the sequel, that those whose destruction was firmly decreed (by Gov. Boggs, the modern Herod, and his wicked coadjutors,) fled into Illinois.

instead of Egypt; for the predictions of Daniel and others must be fulfilled now, as well as those concerning Christ were fulfilled, in spite of judges and governors.

Much inquiry was also had concerning our sending Missionaries to all nations to preach the Gospel. And after all these inquiries, our religion was converted by false testimony and by false coloring, into treason against the State of Missouri; and like the Pharisees of old, all these modern ignoramuses seemed to think, "If we let them thus alone all men will believe on them, and the Mormons will come and take away our place and nation." Here let me remark, that it is, and ever has been, the firm and expressed belief of our society, that Religion is one thing, and Politics another, and that the laws of all governments should be respected and obeyed, so long as their administrations protects the lives and property of their citizens, until the end of the world, when Christ will reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.—But if self-defence and opposition to tyranny and oppression amounts to treason, then I for now, am a treasoner with every feeling of my heart; for had I the power, I would restore the supremacy of the laws and constitution, which have been violated by the authorities of Missouri. Justice should be administered to the guilty Governor, Generals, Judges, and others who have murdered, plundered and driven us; and those who have suffered should be restored to their rights and to their possessions, and the damages should be paid them. Mark the saying, I am opposed to the unlawful proceedings of the highest authorities of Missouri, and would glory in laying down my life in opposing such abominations.

But to return to my narrative: At the close of the Court of Inquiry, some twenty or thirty were dismissed, among whom were A. Lyman, one of our number who had been with us in our captivity, and in our chains, and some twenty others were let to bail; and Messrs. Joseph Smith, Jr., Hiram Smith, Sidney Rigdon, Lyman Wight, Caleb Baldwin, and Alexander McRay, were committed to the jail of Clay county, on the charge of treason. And Messrs.

Morris, Phelps, Luman, Gibbs, Darwin, Chase, Norman, Shearer and myself, were committed to the jail of Richmond, being accused of treason and of defending ourselves in the battle with Bogart and his company.

This done, the civil and military authorities dispersed, and the troubled waters became a little more tranquil. As our people were compelled by the memorable treaty of Far West, to leave the State by the following spring, they now commenced moving by hundreds and by thousands, to the State of Illinois, where they were received in the most humane and friendly manner by the authorities, and by the citizens in general. Mean time, bands of murderers, thieves, and robbers, were roaming unrestrained among the unarmed and defenceless citizens; committing all manner of plunder, and driving off cattle, sheep, and horses—abusing and insulting women, etc.

My wife and children soon came to me in prison, and spent most of the winter with me in the dark, cold and filthy dungeon, where myself and fellow prisoners were constantly inrailed and abused by our dastardly guards, who often threatened to shoot, hang us, &c.

The State Legislature were soon in session, and from this body, so high in responsibility, we had hoped for some redress or protection. But what was our astonishment, when, after much noisy debate on the subject, they refused to investigate the matter, and actually became partakers of the same crimes by passing a law appropriating $200,000 for the payment of the troops engaged in this unlawful, unconstitutional and treasonable enterprise. This last act of unheard of outrage, sealed with eternal infamy, the character of the State of Missouri, and established her downfall, to rise no more. She will be looked upon by her sister States as a star fallen from Heaven, and a ruined and degraded outcast from the federal union.—While the whole civilized world will detest and abhor her, as the most infamous of tyrants. Nay, tyranny itself will blush to hear her deeds mentioned in the annals of history; and the most cruel persecutors of the christians or reformers, in Pagan or Papal Rome, will startle with astonishment from their long slumbers, and with a shudder of the deepest horror, and a frown of the most indignant contempt, they will look upon her unheard of deeds of blind infatuation, and inconceivable absurdity. The spirits of the ancient martyrs will hail their brethren of the latter-day Saints, as greater sufferers than themselves, and the blood of ancient and modern Saints, will mingle together in cries for vengeance, upon those who are drunken with their blood, till justice will delay no longer to execute his long suspended mission of vengeance upon the earth.

These disgraceful proceedings of the legislature were warmly opposed by a large minority of the House, among whom were D. R. Atchison, of Clay county, and all the members from St. Louis, and Messrs. Rollins and Gordon, from Boon, and by various other members from other counties, but the mob majority carried the day, for the guilty wretches feared an investigation, knowing that it would endanger their lives and liberties.

Many of the State journals have tried to hide the iniquity of the State, by throwing a covering of lies over her atrocious deeds. But can they hide the Governor's cruel order for extermination or banishment? Can they conceal the facts of the disgraceful treaty of the Generals, with their own officers and men, at the city of Far West? Can they conceal the fact that ten or twelve thousand men, women and children, have been banished from the State without trial or condemnation. And this at an expense of two hundred thousand dollars, and this sum appropriated by the State Legislature, in order to pay the troops for this act of lawless outrage? Can they conceal the fact that we have been imprisoned for many months, while our families, friends and witnesses have been driven away? Can they conceal the blood of the murdered husbands and fathers; or stifle the cries of the widow and the fatherless! Nay! The rocks and mountains may cover them in unknown depths—the awful abyss of the fathomless deep may swallow them up—and still their horrid deeds will stand forth in the broad light of day, for the wondering gaze of angels and of men! They cannot be hid.

But to return, Mr. Smith, and his fellow prisoners in Clay county, applied for a writ of habeas corpus, and were brought before the county Judges, and their cases examined as to why they were in confinement. At this trial, Mr. Rigdon was let to bail under bonds of two thousand dollars, and the rest were about to be dismissed, but the mob was so violent as to threaten the lives of the Judges if they let them go. Therefore they were detained. In April, having been confined near six months, they were taken to Daviess county, to be tried by a band of robbers, under the name of Grand Jury. Here a bill was soon found against them for high treason, and various other offences.—Their venue was then changed, and they were sent towards Columbia, Boon county, for trial. This was some 120 miles down the country, towards Illinois. On their way to this place, they all made their escape from the sheriff and three guards. Some say that the guards got beastly drunk and let them escape. Others, that they were bought for the paltry sum of $800, but be this as it may, they escaped unhurt, and arrived safe in Illinois, where they were kindly received, and welcomed by the governor, and by the community, as men who had escaped from a long and terrible persecution. And there they have now been for some months, and that publicly, without any attempt on the part of the State of Missouri to retake them, although they are but just over the line. Why does the State thus neglect them? The answer is, that they are now ashamed of their own conduct and glad to drop the subject and let it slumber where it is.

On the seventeenth of March, (as the time drew nigh for all the Society to leave the State,) my wife took leave of the prison, and with a broken heart returned to Far West, in order to get passage with some of the brethren, for Illinois. She tarried in Far West about a month. All the Society had gone from the State, but a few of the poor, and widows, and a committee who tarried behind to assist them in removing. About the middle of April, a gang of robbers entered Far West armed, and ordered my wife and the committee, and the others, to be gone by such a day or they would murder them. Thus my wife was driven away, according to the previous orders of the governor, while I was still detained in a filthy dungeon. My family were conveyed to Quincy, Illinois, distance one hundred and eighty miles, by David W. Rogers of New-York, who is a descendant of the celebrated martyr, John Rogers, of Smithfield, England.

On the 20th of April, 1838, the last of the Society departed from Far West. Thus had a whole people consisting of about ten or eleven thousand souls, been driven from houses and lands, and reduced to poverty, and had removed to another State during one short winter, and part of a spring. The sacrifice of property was immense, probably amounting to several millions, and one of the most flourishing counties of the state, and part of several others, were reduced to desolation or inhabited by gangs of robbers.

On the 24th of April, our cases were laid before the Grand Jury of the county of Ray: and Darwin Chase, and Norman Sheerer were dismissed after being imprisoned near six months.

This release happened just as Mr. Shearer came to visit his son for the last time before he left the country. He came into the prison to see us, and not knowing of the intended release, he took an affectionate leave of us and of his son, who seemed to weep with heart-broken anguish. But while he yet lingered in town, his son was called before the court, and with Mr. Chase, was told that they might go at liberty. The father and son then embraced each other, almost overcome with joy and departed. At the same time my brother, Orson Pratt, whom I had not before seen for a year, came from Illinois to see me, but was only permitted to visit me for a few moments, and then was ordered to depart. Mrs. Phelps, who had waited in prison for some days, in hopes that the court would release her husband, now parted with him, overwhelmed with sorrow and tears, and with her infant moved slowly away, to remove to Illinois, and leave her husband behind. Thus our families wander in a strange land, without our protection, being robbed of house and home. O God! who can endure the thought? Come out in justice, O Lord! and return us to our mourning families.

Our number in prison were now reduced to four. One having been added about the middle of April. His name was King Follet; he was dragged from his distressed family just as they were leaving the state. Thus of all the prisoners which were taken at an expense of two hundred thousand dollars only two of the original ones, who belonged to the Church, now remained, (Mr. Gibbs having denied the faith, to try to save his life.) These were Morris Phelps and myself. All who were let to bail were banished from the State, together with those who bailed them. Thus none are like to have a trial by law, but ourselves, and we are without friends or witnesses in the State. After the Grand Jury had found a bill against us for defending ourselves in the battle with Bogart's company, we were kept in prison at Richmond for about a month, we then took a chance of venue, and were ordered to be sent to Columbia, Boon county, for trial. On the 22d of May we were handcuffed together, two and two, with irons round the wrist of each, and in this fix we were taken from prison and placed in a carriage. The people of Richmond gathered around us to see us depart; but none seemed to feel for us except two persons. One of these, (General Park's lady) bowed to us through the window, and looked as if touched with pity. The other was a Mr. Huggins, merchant of Richmond, who bowed with some feeling as we passed. We now took leave of Richmond, accompanied by Sheriff Brown, and four guards, with drawn pistols, and moved on towards Columbia. No tongue can describe our sensations as we came forth from a most filthy dungeon, where we had been confined for near seven months, and began to breathe the free air, and to change the scenery, and look abroad upon the face of the earth. There was a sweetness in the air and a perfume from the earth which none could fully realize, except such as have been for a long time confined in tainted air. It had been thundering and raining for some days and the thunder storm lasted with but short cessations from the time we started, til we arrived at the place of destination, which was five days. The small streams were swollen so as to be very difficult crossing them. On the second day we came to a creek which was several rods over, with a strong current, and very deep. It was towards evening, and far from any house, and we had received no refreshment through the day. Here we halted, and knew not what to do; we waited awhile for the water to fall, but it fell slowly. All hands were hungry and impatient, and a lowery night seemed to threaten that the creek would rise before morning by the falling of additional rain. In this dilemma, some councilled one thing, and some another.—Some said, go back some miles to a house, and tarry till morning. Others said camp here for the night. Others said swim the river, and leave the carriage and baggage till morning, and some advised to attempt to drive some miles around the head of the stream. At last I proposed to the sheriff that if he would take off my irons I would go into the water to bathe, and by that means ascertain the depth and bottom; this he consented to do, after some hesitation. I then plunged into the stream, and swam across, and attempted to wade back; I found it to be a hard bottom, and the water about up to my chin; but a very stiff current. After this, Mr. Brown, the sheriff, undertook to cross on his horse; but just as his horse neared the opposite shore, he sprung sidewise, to gain a bank, and Mr. Brown was thrown off his horse and buried in the stream. He could not swim, but sprang out, hallowing and flouncing in a manner that caused much merriment to the company. This accident decided the fate of the day. Being now completely wet, he resolved to effect the crossing of the whole company, bag and baggage.— Accordingly several stripped off their clothes and mounted on the bare backs of the horses; and, taking their clothing, saddles, and arms, together with our trunk and bedding upon their shoulders, they bore them across in safety, without wetting. This was done by riding backwards and forwards, across the stream, several times. In this sport and labor, prisoners, guards and all, mingled in mutual exertion.—

All was now safe but the carriage. Mr. Phelps then proposed to swim that across, by hitching two horses before it; and he mounted on one of their backs, while myself and one of the guards swam by the side of the carriage to keep it from upsetting by the force of the current. And thus, Paul like, we all got safe to land. Every thing was soon replaced; and ourselves in the carriage, and the suite on horseback, we moved swiftly on, and at dark arrived at a house of entertainment, amid a terrible thunder storm. Next morning we proceeded on, and in a few miles came to another swimming stream; but after some consultation, it was thought best to go around the head of the stream. We accordingly took our back track for a half mile, and then, striking to the north in the open prairie, without any track, we rode some seven miles around, crossed the head of the stream, and returned to the road which we had left; this day we crossed the Missouri at a place called Arrow Rock, being named from the circumstance of the natives coming there from all quarters to get a kind of hard rock from the bluff to make arrow points. In this journey we had slept each night on our backs, on the floor; being all four of us ironed together, with hand and ankle irons made for the purpose. This being done, the windows and doors were all fastened, and then five guards with their loaded pistols staid in the room, and one at a time sat up and watched during the night. This cruelty was inflicted on us, more to gratify a wicked disposition, than any thing else; for it was in vain for us to have tried to escape, without any irons being put on us, and had we wished to escape, we had a tolerable good opportunity at the creek.

When we arrived within four miles of Columbia, the bridge had been destroyed from over a large and rapid river; and here we were some hours in crossing over in a totlish canoe, having to leave our carriage, together with our bedding, clothing, our trunk of clothing, books, papers, &c., but all came to us in safety after two days. After we had crossed the river, our guards having swam their horses, mounted them, and we proceeded towards Columbia, the prisoners walking on foot, two being fastened together two and two by the wrists.

After walking two or three miles Mr. Brown hired a carriage, and we rode into Columbia. It was about sun-set on Sunday evening, and as the carriage and our armed attendants drove through the streets, we were gazed upon with astonishment by hundreds of spectators, who thronged the streets, and looked out at the windows, doors, &c., anxious to get a glimpse of the strange beings called Mormons. On our arrival we were immediately hurried to the prison, without going to a tavern for refreshment, although we had travelled a long summer day without any thing to eat. When unloosed from our fetters, we were ushered immediately from the carriage into the jail, and the next moment a huge trap-door was opened, and down we went into a most dismal dungeon, which was full of cobwebs and filth above, below, and all around the walls, having stood empty for near two years. Here was neither beds, nor chairs, nor water, nor food, nor friends, nor any one on whom we might call, even for a drink of cold water; for Brown and all others had withdrawn to go where they could refresh themselves. When thrust into this dungeon, we were nearly ready to faint with hunger, and thirst, and weariness. We walked the room for a few moments, and then sank down upon the floor in despondency, and wished to die; for, like Elijah of old, if the Lord had inquired, "What dost thou here?" we could have replied, "Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and thrown down thine altars, and have driven out all thy saints from the land, and we only are left to tell thee; and they seek our lives, to take them away; and now, therefore, let us die."

"Our feelings were the more melancholy, because here we had hoped to see our families from Illinois, or some kind friend from thence, as we had not heard from them for some time, and were now within one hundred miles of them; but we neither saw nor heard of any one who knew us, or cared for us. We now sent to the post-office, but got no letters. Our families and friends, it seemed, had even neglected to write to us—this seemed the more unaccountable, as they had long expected us a Columbia. When we had been in the dungeon for some time, our new jailor handed down some provisions, but by this time I was too faint t eat; I tasted a few mouthfuls, and then suddenly, the trap-door opened, and some chairs were handed to us, and the new sheriff, Mr. Martin, and his deputy, Mr. Hamilton, entered our dungeon, and talked so kindly to us, that our spirits again revived in some measure. This night we slept cold and uncomfortable; having but little bedding. Next morning we were suffered to come out of the dungeon, and the liberty o the upper room was given us through the day, ever afterwards. We now began to receive kind treatment from our jailor, and from our new sheriff; for it was Mr. Brown that had caused all our neglect and sufferings the previous evening. It was his business to have taken us from the carriage to a hotel, and refreshed us, previous to our being committed t jail, after causing us to travel all day withou eating, or refreshment of any kind. Our jai in Columbia was a large wooden block building, with two apartments ; one was occupied by the jailor and his family, and the other by the prisoners. Our dungeon I have already described as disagreeable and gloomy ; its walls consist of three tiers of hewn timber, which are in all about a yard thick ; it is lighted by two small windows, about sixteen inches square each, and fortified with three rows of large iron grates.

Our upper room was about eighteen feet square, with a decent floor, and two large grated windows, one looking to the east and the other to the west, thus giving a free circulation of air, which in summer renders it very pleasant. It has a fine prospect of part of the flourishing village, and some fine farms, and upon the whole is as comfortable as one can expect to enjoy, when shut from all exercise, and from his family and friends, and every thing dear to his heart. After being in this jail for some days a messenger arrived from Illinois, bringing news from our families. This was Mr. Watson Barlow. His coming truly refreshed our spirits. My wife wrote to me, that she intended to come and see us soon. On arriving at Columbia, we applied to the Hon. Judge Reynolds, for a special term of the court to be holden for our trials; this petition was granted, and the first of July was appointed for the sitting of said court. It is now the thirteenth of June, in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty-nine; I have been in confinement seven months and fourteen days.

I must now give some account of the manner in which part of the manuscript escaped destruction, and made its way out of prison. From the beginning of our confinement, it had been the study of our enemies to prevent us from sending the truth abroad in the world; for they dreaded our pen more than the swords of a legion of Sampsons.

They had never suffered us to receive or send out any writings without they were first read by our guards. No one except our wives could converse with us without the guard was present to hear all that was said, and every handkerchief or other article was carefully examined when handed in or out. The guard and sheriff had noticed for some time that I had been very busy in writing, and at length it came to our ears once and again, that my writings would be seized and never suffered to go out of prison. At lenght the time was set for a search. Mrs. Pratt had then been in prison for some days, and the sheriff was coming with the guards to search our room and beds and trunks; and even they said that Mrs. Pratt should not leave the jail again without being searched by some female.

The manuscript was then in a pillow case, and the pillow case suspended from her under garments in the form of an apron. We looked out and saw the company with the sheriff coming to search. I feared that if these writings were found about her person, she might be injured by their rage, and therefore hurried her below, where we riped open the straw bed and put them in, in a flat position, and sewed it up again. I then turned to go up in haste, lest the guards were at the door. Our little Mary Ann, of six years of age, had followed us down. It was a steep ladder, and a huge trap door, made of double oak plank, and nearly as much as a man could raise. I lifted it up and went up; the little girl followed, and while holding it for her to come up, by some means the strap by which I held it, slipped from my grasp, and it fell upon the head, and caught the arm of the child. It was seized instantly and raised up again, and the child rescued from the top of the ladder before she fell to the bottom of the dungeon; her head and arm were dreadfully bruised. Meantime the guards and sheriff, had halted to chat with some one within a few rods of the jail. At this moment I ordered Mrs. Pratt to run below and take the manuscript from its place in the straw bed, and instantly replace it about her person, while at the same time I would call to the sheriff and guards, and inform them that our little girl was dreadfully hurt, and that her mother wished to go out instantly for some spirits to put in her camphor bottle to bathe the bruised child. This was instantly done, the alarm was given, the guards came running, and unlocked the door, and we told them that our little girl was dreadfully hurt; at which Mrs.

Pratt, with the manuscript concealed about her person, instantly took the child and hastened out with much fright, lest the child was nearly killed. Under these circumstances, the guard could make no objection to her going, it being a poor time indeed to wait for searching or ceremony. The little child though much hurt, was not so badly injured as we expected; she was soon as well as ever. When she had gone out into a house near the prison, and had taken care of the child, I feared they would search her then, and search the house. At this moment Mrs. Gibbs happened to go to the door of the prison, and by watching a good opportunity, I handed her a scrap of writing, folded up to the bigness of my thumb nail. In this was written as follows: "Mrs. Pratt, let the truth remain with the people of Maine." At the same time my shoes needing some new soles on them, I pulled them off, and called the guard to hand them to Mrs. Pratt, and request her to carry them to the shoemaker, and get them mended. The fact was this: Sylvester B. Stoddard lived about half a mile from our prison; he was an excellent shoemaker, and a true disciple, but secretly for fear of the people. This man was our friend, and formerly from Maine. I wished my wife to go there and carry my shoes to be mended, which would be a good excuse for going unsuspicioned by our jealous guards, and at the same time leave the manuscript there.—Therefore I wrote as above, "let the truth remain with the people of Maine." This was done.

Thus kind reader, was this little book providentially, and I may say, miraculously preserved, and by this means you have it to read. If it had not been for all these unforeseen accidents or providences, the world would never have read this account of awful persecutions, and terrible scenes through which myself and family, and fellow Saints have been called to pass.—The writings would have been consumed to ashes. But "truth is mighty and will prevail." The horrid deeds of murder and injustice will come to light. Iniquity cannot be hid.

Is it possible! have I been recording the history of realities as the scenes transpired in the broad light of the nineteenth century, and in the boasted land of Liberty—in the midst of the most renowned republic now existing on the Globe? Alas! it is too true. Would to God it were a dream. Would to God it were a novel—a romance that had no existence, save in the wild regions of fancy. But the prison door yet grating on its huge hinges, and the absence of my beloved Mary, and our little babes, with the gloom of the dungeon where I yet repose;—these and ten thousand other things, cause me to think that my almost incredible narrative is no fiction but an awful reality. A fact more truly distressing than my feeble pen can find words to set forth. How oft in my sleeping visions I see my beloved wife, or my playful children, surrounded with the pleasures of home in my sweet little cottage, or walk with them in some pleasant grove or flowery field as in years past. How oft I see myself surrounded with listening thousands, as in by-gone years, and join with them in the sacred song and prayer, or address them with the sound of the glad tidings of the fulness of the gospel. But alas! I then awake and, to my inexpressible grief and sorrow, find myself still in my lonely dungeon. O Liberty—O sound once delightful to every American ear—O sacred privilege of American citizenship! Once sacred, now trampled upon. O the blessings so dearly purchased by the blood of our fathers! When shall I and my injured family and friends again enjoy thy sweets? When shall we repose beneath thy bower, or bask in thy boundless ocean of felicity? When shall we set again under our vine and under our fruit tree and worship our God, with none to molest or make us afraid? Awake, O Americans—Arise, O sons and daughters of freedom, restore a persecuted and injured people to their rights as citizens of a free Republic. Down with tyranny and oppression, and rescue your liberties from the brink of ruin. Redeem your much injured country from the awful stain upon its honor; and let the cries of helpless orphans and the tears of the sorrowing widow cease to ascend up before the Lord for vengeance upon the heads of those who have slain, plundered, imprisoned and driven the

Saints. And let the news go forth to the wondering and astonished nations, that Columbia still is free. O tell it not in Britain; nor let the sound be heard in Europe, that liberty is fallen; that the free institutions of our once happy country are now destroyed: lest the daughters of Britannia rejoice and laugh us to scorn. Lest the daughters of monarchy triumph, and have us in derision.

I shall now introduce several extracts from the public journals of Missouri and other States, to show that the unprejudiced part of the community look upon the proceedings of the State of Missouri in the same light as the author of this work.

Extract of a letter from A. W. Turner, one of the members of the Missouri Legislature; dated city of Jefferson, November 31st, 1838; taken from the 'Columbia Patriot,' a Whig paper published in Missouri:

'The Mormon war is the most exciting subject before the Legislature or the community; it involves an enquiry the most critical of any ever presented to the Legislature of this country;

one in which the rights of a portion of the free citizens of the State is concerned on one side and the rights of another portion of the same citizens on the other. Upon the decision of this subject the character of the State is suspended. If upon full investigation it is found (and reported by the committee to the Legislature) that the Mormons are not the aggressors, and that some of them have been murdered, others driven from the State by military force, and others imprisoned by order of the Executive, then our character will be established as the most lawless invaders of religious and civil rights.'

Will the public believe that with this above view of the subject, the Legislature avoided an investigation? Wonder and be astonished, O Americans!

The following toast was given by John L. Gordon, at a public dinner in honor of Major General D. R. Atchison, given by the citizens of Clay county, Missouri, Nov. 15th, 1838, in relation to the State proceedings against the Mormons:

Gen. D. R. Atchison; Gov. Boggs paid high compliments to his bravery as a soldier and his humanity as a man, in superseding him in the command of the late expedition against the Mormons; he is not a fit instrument to carry on a war of extermination against defenceless women and children, or to treat unfortunately defenceless and unarmed prisoners.' [Taken from the Columbia Patriot.

The following is from a Missouri paper, printed in Calloway county, entitled 'The Banner of Liberty.'

The Governor of Missouri has negotiated a State loan with the Bank of Missouri, of three hundred and forty thousand dollars. Of this sum, two hundred thousand dollars are to go towards paying the expenses of the troops called out *to drive the Mormons from the State.*

The following is taken from the 'Boonslick Democrat,' a Missouri paper, under date of January 9, 1839:

"'A letter under date of the 29th November, 1838, has been written by Michael Arthur, of Clay county, to the delegation from that county in General Assembly, now in session, from which the following is an extract: "Humanity to an injured people prompts me at present to address you thus. You were aware of the treatment (to some extent before you left home) received by that unfortunate race of beings called Mormons, from devils in the form of human beings, inhabiting Daviess, Livingston, and part of Ray counties. Not being satisfied with a relinquishment of their rights as citizens and human beings, in the treaty forced upon them by Gen. Lucas, by giving up their arms and throwing themselves upon the mercy of the State and their fellow citizens generally, hoping thereby protection of their lives and property, they are now receiving treatment from those demons which makes humanity shudder, and the cold chills run over any man not entirely destitute of humanity. These demons are now strolling up and down Caldwell county in small companies, armed; insulting the women in any and every way, and plundering the Mormons of all the means of subsistence, (scanty as it was) left them, and driving off their cattle, horses, hogs, &c., and rifling their houses and farms of every thing thereon, taking beds, bedding, wardrobes and such things as they see they want, leaving the Mormons in a starving and naked condition. These are facts I have from authority that cannot be questioned, and can be maintained and substantiated at any time.'

The above needs no comment, it tells its own story in language which will melt the heart of every true American. I will now give a piece which appeared in the St. Louis (Mo.) Saturday News, and leave the reader to contrast the two, and draw his own conclusions as to our being a self afflicted people, or as to our having much chance to live by labor:

'THE MORMONS.—That self afflicted class of people, which has chosen the fancy name of Mormons, has elicited some sympathy and well intended compassion from some of our charitable citizens, and two meetings have been called to devise means of relieving their present wants. Although many of the Mormons deserve hanging, as an atonement for their criminal proceedings and corrupt intentions, they are truly objects of charity.

"But if this intrinsically vagrant race, (the Mormons) would relieve themselves from the humiliating necessity of asking charity, they should mind their own business, abandon abolition, and apply themselves to hard labor, as those do who are actively engaged in attempting their relief.

"No attempt should be made to retain a single Mormon within the boundaries of Missouri. A Colonization Society might find advantageous employment in sending them all off to Botany Bay."

I have only to inquire of the editor who published the above, first, what advantage hard labor would be to a people who are banished from all their hard earnings in the State, and are now recommended to be banished from the Continent and sent to Botany Bay? Secondly, whether crimes and corrupt intentions are more manifest in the conduct of the Mormons, than in the sentiments of the editor of the "Saturday News?" What greater crime can a person be guilty of, than destroying the rights of men, women, and children, and banishing them ten thousand citizens from their houses and lands, and thus overthrowing the government, constitution and laws of our once happy Republic? These criminal proceedings, the pious editor recommends, and still further proposes a second and more distant banishment of our suffering people. O, editor! blush to put forth such barefaced absurdity, and imposition.— Thirdly, our Society has never taken part in the abolition question, neither one side or the other, but each individual thinks as he pleases on that subject.

The following resolves were unanimously adopted at a large meeting of the people of Daviess county, Missouri, and published in one of the journals of the State. We publish them to show what barefaced absurdity men can be guilty of; the reader will readily perceive that the first resolve pretends that they are in favor of the laws of our country. The second highly approves of the most lawless and unconstitutional outrages that ever disgraced the annals of this or any other country. O, Consistency! whither hast thou fled?

1st. Resolved, That we esteem the laws of our country our great bulwark, and the only safe refuge to protect us in this and every other emergency.

2d. Resolved, That we highly approve of the course of the Executive in placing Gen. Clark in command of the forces ordered out against the *Mormons*, and that his order to exterminate and drive them *from the State*, was dictated by the imperious duty of his office as Governor of the State.

The following is taken from the "Missouri Republican," a Whig paper published at St. Louis.

"To show our readers the amount of injury which is now inflicted upon the character of our State, and which there is no means of repelling, the Legislature having refused to inquire into the matter, we copy the following from the proceedings of a public meeting held in Quincy, Ill. Whig of the 2d inst.; 'Mr. Sidney Rigdon rose and read the memorial which his people had presented to the Legislature of Missouri, and other documents, going to show the absence of all law and justice, in the course the Missouri authorities had pursued towards them, from Governor Boggs down to the lowest grade of officers."—After another had addressed the meeting, the same account says; "Mr. Rigdon, again took the floor, and in a very eloquent and impressive manner, related the trials, sufferings and persecutions which his people had met with at the hands of the people of Missouri. We saw the tear standing in the eyes of many of his people while he was recounting their history of wo and sorrow; and in fact, the gentleman himself was so agitated at different periods of his address, that his feelings would hardly allow him to proceed. We are satisfied that his address will have a lasting and good effect; sustained as it was by the public documents which he produced.

"We will not attempt to follow him through the cold blooded murder, by the mob of Missouri, of Mormon men and children, the violation of females, the destroying of property, the burning of houses, &c."——"In vain may the press in Missouri protest against these representations. In vain may we declare that Rigdon and his followers were doing injustice, misrepresenting and slandering our people, their institutions and officers, &c.; the public abroad will judge us by the course of our Legislature. We have made our bed and must lie down on it. A friend residing in Lafayette county, a few days since, called our attention to reports in circulation in New-York, seriously affecting the character of this State, growing out of this subject, and requested us to contradict them. Most cheerfully would we undertake the task, but we know it is hopeless."

The following is from the "New-York Sun." After giving some extracts from St. Louis papers, showing the outrages of the people of Missouri against the Mormons, the editor proceeds thus: "That Captain Bogart must be very much like a blackguard and a coward, if he is not a decided candidate for both titles. He was one of those who started the horrible stories of the "cutting up of Missourians, fifty at a batch, by the Mormons." Probably he ran away from his company, and imagined the horrible murders too varied; the shooting down of a flag staff, bearing a flag of truce, is characteristic of the bravery of a coward, when backed by 3000 men against 700.

"They must have a primitive mode of administering justice in Missouri. These Mormons are as much citizens as the others, and yet, without trial, upon the exparte testimony of the persons who had provoked the Mormons to retaliation, the Governor issues orders, if we understand the case, for the expulsion of the Mormons from the State of Missouri. The Emperor of Russia—the Shah of Persia, or the Sultan of Turkey could not embrace in his own person, more legislative, judicial, executive power than is here assumed:—Legislative in the enactment and promulgation of an edict of banishment. Judicial, extra-judicial, or unjudicial in sentencing them to banishment under it. Executive in summoning the force of the State to put in force his own judgment upon his edict. Well done, Governor Boggs!

We are sorry to hear of the massacre of the Mormons by the armed mob, however, this violence being the natural promptings of infuriated men, is positively less culpable than the cool ignorance, and impudent, illegal assumptions of the Governor of Missouri.

From the Boston Atlas.

Letter from a Gentleman at the West to his friend in Boston.

Dear Sir:—You ask me for information concerning the Mormon trouble in Missouri. In giving it, I shall be compelled to state particulars, that will stagger your belief; and I shall be betrayed into a warmth of expression, which may be construed into the signs of partizan bitterness, but which will be in truth only the language of honest indignation. The series of wrongs and outrages perpetrated on the Mormons, and the closing act of injustice, by which those wrongs and outrages were suffered to escape, not only unpunished, but triumphant, from the elements of *Persecution*, which in vain seeks a parallell in the history of our country. For example of similar outrages on the rights of justice and humanity, I am compelled to resort to barbarious nations and dark ages, which those furnish precedents to excuse the conduct of the people of Missouri.

The Mormons, I need not say, are a weak and credulous people, whose chief fault is the misfortune of having become the dupes of a villainous impostor.* They have an excess of that, as to which the world at large is exceedingly deficient, i. e. *Faith*. They have been deluded; and they are to be pitied. But I have yet to learn that their faith taught them immorality. I have yet to learn that it encouraged disobedience to the laws or encroachments on the rights of any fellow citizen.

The Mormons were in truth a moral, orderly and sober population. They were industrious farmers, and ingenious mechanics. They were busy about their own affairs, and never intermeddled in the concerns of their neighbors. They were exceedingly peaceful and averse to strife, quarrels and violence. They had established schools, they encouraged education, and they all had the rudiments of learning taught under our school system at the East. They had begun to open fine farms, and put their lands in a high state of improvement. Many of them were surrounded by numerous comforts, and some with even the elegancies of life.

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* The writer, though just in other remarks, falls into the common error of crying imposition, without showing wherein the deception consists.

In all these respects their condition presented a broad contrast to that of their neighbors. Of these neighbors, many had been there for years—much longer in fact than the Mormons—and had made *few* advances upon the Indians they had displaced. Mud hovels—a "truck patch"—hunting and buck-skin breeches were their highest aspirations. Letters they despised as much as they did the conveniences or comforts of life. Bold, violent, unscrupulous and grasping—hating all who differed from, much more who excelled them in the art of living, the relations between them and the Mormons may readily be inferred by any man who has read a single chapter in the history of human strife.

The *Anti-Mormons* (for I must distinguish this horde of demi-savages) are exceedingly intolerant. They are *refuse* Kentuckians and

Tennesseeans, intermixed with Virginians of the same caste, in whom the vice of sectional pride, which marks these people, and a prejudice against all others, especially those belonging to the free States, whom they indiscriminately brand as Yankees—is exaggerated to the highest pitch. Such persons, if they could do it, would incorporate in the constitution of Missouri, a provision to prohibit emigrating thither of any body, not belonging to their own "kith and kin." They have also personal pride to an excess, which leads them, however, not to emulate a rival's exertions, but to envy his success and hate his person. They have, however a grasping disposition, which stimulates them to acquire; but not industry and enterprise enough to lead them to acquire honestly. They prefer plunder to fair means, if they can only conceal the knowledge of their foul play; because rapine gratifies their propensities to force, indolence and acquisition. They are bold, crafty, and when inspired by revenge, energetic and persevering beyond almost any other race of men.

The worst error, committed by the otherwise cunning Smith and his coadjutors, was that of transplanting his followers to such a soil. A pacific, rather timid, and thrifty people, differing as the Mormons did from the out-skirt Missourians in manners, sentiments and modes of life, just served to stimulate the worst passions of the latter, and hold out the prospect of an easy prey to their cupidity and violence.

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They were sagacious enough to know that their acts should have a “show of virtue,” and they accordingly began to misrepresent the Mormons. The charges were at first general. The mormons were a “mighty mean people.” They were “great fools”—which in common acceptation is about as bad as being great villains. Then they were thievish (how ludicrous when the Anti-Mormons had hardly any thing worth stealing!). They “tampered with the negroes,” which we know, in all slave States excites the most intense odium against the accused, without, in the nature of things, a possibility of repelling the accusation for a slave's evidence is worthless. Finally, a fellow burnt his own corn crib and charged it on the Mormons. Bad men hate those whom they have injured. There is, therefore, plenty of reason why the Anti-Mormons should have hated their rivals. Crimination provokes recrimination; hate begets hate. Dissentions and quarrels sprung up between the parties; till finally it was evident that they could not live in contact; and that the Anti-Mormons were determined the Mormons should yield and abandon the country. Moreover the land sales were approaching, and it was expedient that they should be driven out before they could establish their *rights to pre-emption*. In this way their valuable improvements—the fruit of diligence and enterprise—would pass into the hands of men who would have the pleasure of enjoying without the toil of earning.

The massacre at Horne's Mills ought to be rung through Christendom. A body of men commanded by a Preacher from Charlton county, went down to that mill and there fell upon their victims, precisely as the pirates of the

Caribean fell upon them. The poor Mormons took refuge in a blacksmith shop, and were there murdered in detail. The attacking party leisurely and deliberately thrust their rifles between the logs of the building, and there as the Mormons were pent up like sheep in a fold, butchered them! An old man M'Bride—said to have been a revolutionary soldier—begged for his life. It was denied him and he was put to death with the most savage violence. A mere child—only nine years old—was chased, supplicating his pursuers, exclaiming "I am an *American* boy."* But all would not answer.—He was hunted to his place of refuge under the large bellows of the shop and his head blown into fragments, by means of a rifle deliberately aimed at it! It is said too, that some of the more desperate and abandoned of the profligate villains, who joined in this affray, returned the next day, and danced over the well in which their victims had been entombed! Certain it is that they plundered those whom they had killed. And be it remembered that this party of assailants had no authority whatever for mustering and marching; and, therefore, in the eye of the law, are mere brigands, robbers and murderers.

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* The infernal intolerance of the Anti-Mormons would not allow the Mormons' claim to be AMERICAN citizens. And this boy was in fact NOT a Mormon!

You ask, if this can be true? I tell you—yes. It is true—awful, atrocious and abominable as it is, it is true. Yes, it is true—true in the nineteenth century—true in republican, in Christian America; true, while your good people of Boston—a part of the same people that committed these horrors, are sending the gospel of truth and love to far away India and the isles of the ocean.

And how do you think the great Senator-civilian, who led this onslaught, justifies it?—"Why," says he, "we were in a state of war! It was open war! Which party fired first, I don't know. It did not matter. We came to fight; we had a fight; and they got whipped." Yes, indeed they got whipped. Thirty Mormons killed outright or dead of their wounds, and not a hair of a head touched on the other side. A fair fight! Very likely! Men pent up in a blacksmith's shop and butchered like cattle! An old grey haired man hacked up and shot through! A child chased and his brains blown out! A fair fight! What ideas of regular war and legitimate battle—or rather what notion of right, justice, or humanity must possess the head of a *Senator* (!) who can justify his acts as this one does! It is really a pity that the Mormons did not make a fight of it. If they had done so, this Senator might not now have been living to proclaim his own disgrace, with his own lips, to all the intelligence and humanity of Christendom.

From first to last—but especially in the outset of the troubles—the Governor of the State was guilty of the most unpardonable remissness and partiality. He was formerly of Jackson county, and came into office with strong prejudices against the Mormons. At the time of the difficulty in Carrol, the Mormons sent and besought his interposition. He refused it, on the pretext of expense; but in a few weeks afterwards, ordered out *against* the Mormons, an army large enough to have prostrated ten times the force, supposed to be arrayed against it.

The conduct, too, of Gen. Lucas, who commanded at the (so called) surrender at Far West, was to the last degree absurd and tyrannical. Regarding the Mormons—not as American citizens—but as prisoners of war, belonging to a strange and beligerent people, he imposed upon them a "*treaty*," by which they bound themselves, through a committee to indemnify (the innocent for the guilty) the sufferers in Daviess, and to quit the State. Such stipulations, so flagrantly at war with the law of the land and with common right—did this notable general officer, in the execution of his high and delicate trust, think fit to exact of his Mormon prisoners, supposing as he doubtless did, that the Mormons were bound by it!

But worse—still more absurd and barbarous than all this, was one transaction which happened immediately on the surrender. Will you believe it, that, on that event, General Lucas called a council, composed of some sixteen general officers, which, by a large majority, decided to try, on the next day, 40 or 50 of those Mormons whom they considered ringleaders, by a Court Martial, the end of which would no doubt have been death to all the accused! It was then that Gen. Doniphan, of Clay county,—a man respected for his legal attainments and high character, addressed Gen. Lucas in the most indignant language. "Sir," said he, "to-morrow at day light, I march all my command back to Clay. I will not stay here to witness your cold-blooded butchery." Gen. Lucas was not, however, then averted from his purpose; but the stand taken by Gen. Doniphan, disconcerted both him and the rest of these *general* officers, all of whom placed great reliance on Gen. Doniphan's judgment, and secretly (as well as they might) distrusted their own. At midnight, Gen. Lucas went to Gen. Doniphan and begged him to stay. That he wished all things properly conducted and therefore he intended to name General D. as President of the Court. Gen. Doniphan instantaneously sprung to his feet, and exclaimed:—"This very inducement which you hold out, is the reason why I will march two hours earlier than I intended. I wash my hands of this Court. It is murder in cold blood. I will have nothing to do with it." Suffice it to say, that Gen. Doniphan's noble stand prevented the execution of this monstrous purpose. The Court Martial was not held.

By the villainies of their enemies and their own imprudence, (for just retaliation was in their case imprudence) the Mormons were prostrated. Some sought safety in flight.—Some turned what property they had left into the means of removal. Others were too poor to go, and were compelled to stay and suffer.

All suffered and all lost. But the *pre-emptors* suffered most. They were stripped of the fruits of their hard toils; for not one of them *dared*, at the appointed time, present himself, to make good his rights. The earnings of years were thus in one moment wrested from them by violence and fraud. The American citizen is *not* protected by American laws; but he is driven out from his lands and his home by men, whom the law cannot or will not reach, and whom the Legislature of the State justify and applaud.

The General Assembly of Missouri refused investigation of the origin and history of this unexampled *Persecution.* They knew better than to do it. Impartial investigation would have implicated the State and many of its legislators too deeply. It was a series of enormities that would not bear the light; and they, therefore—so far as they could do it—have quenched it in darkness.

But still there remained the sordid disposition *for pay*. The *general* officers called out in such extraordinary numbers, had a claim upon the treasury. With many of them it was a sheer speculation. Though in many cases they went unattended to the field, they filed ludicrous accounts for extra servants, horses, &c., claiming full brigadier and major general's pay, as if in the actual service of the United States. The demands, it is true, were regular; but showed a very unpatriotic desire to make money out of the State. The Legislature finally, without inquiry, voted $200,000, but provided that the pirates should be paid first. Even $200,000 will not meet the regular demands,—(thanks to

Governor Boggs' prudence and discretion in calling out this host) and these celebrated generals and generalissimos will be knocking at the door of the next General Assembly for pay; reminding one of Patrick Henry's speech in Hook's case, where the plaintiff was supposed to be patrolling the patriot camp with cries of "Beef!" "Beef!" I sincerely hope that they will in vain cry "Pay!" "Pay!"—until they are willing to confine their demands within decent bounds.

And now do not suppose—let no man North of the Potomac suppose—that the faith and fanaticism of the Mormons had any influence worth mentioning, in exciting this persecution.

No—it was the causes I have already intimated, to which this affair may be rightly traced. And let me assure you that any body of men like the Mormons, in all respects, *but in their religion*, would in the same situation have shared their fate. I wish you to understand it as my deliberate opinion that, at this moment any body of people, accustomed only to the manners and sentiments of the inhabitants of the free States, and rather pacific and yielding in their dispositions, however industrious, thrifty and intelligent—would, if they attempted a settlement on choice lands in Missouri fare as have the Mormons.

Why conceal the truth? Let me tell you that a body of farmers and Mechanics from Essex, Middlesex or Norfolk—however they might differ in points of faith—if they should now be transplanted to the abandoned localities of the Mormons—would in five years from the date be driven out by fire and sword precisely as the Mormons have, and the General Assembly of Missouri would justify it. Do you ask me how the Germans continue to stay in Missouri? I will tell you. They have taken the worst soils in the State—soils which nobody else will take. This is the true answer. The Germans are more disliked than the Yankees, and if they should once presume to interfere with the Kentucky prerogative to occupy the best lands—woe to the poor Germans—unless indeed they will fight harder than the Mormons.

Yes, let it be understood that there are a portion of the public domain of the United States, which are not common to people of all the States. The question is now settled. The *lettered* yeomanry of the free States have met the *unlettered* yeomanry of the slave States; and by the latter have been vanquished, scattered and despoiled.

The game tried so successfully against the Indians, has been played off against the whites. And those whites are Yankees, who cannot claim the enjoyment of a common right, in the face of certain other portions of their "fellow citizens," because they are too conscientious, or too tender, or too timid. But they must succumb like the Indians.

From the New-York Commercial Advertiser.

MEETING ON BEHALF OF THE MORMONS.—Last evening pursuant to public notice, a large meeting assembled at National Hall, to listen to the recital of the wrongs and sufferings of the Mormons, and to devise means for the relief of their women and children.

The meeting was organized by placing Mr.

Charles King, in the Chair, and Mr. Marcus Spring, as Secretary.

The chairman having briefly stated the object of the meeting, and read the circular letter signed by Governor Carlin of Illinois, Senator Young, from that State, and other residents thereof—vouching for the trustworthiness of Mr. Green, who is deputed by his people to make their case known to the country,—the Chairman introduced Mr. Green to the meeting.

Mr. Green proceeded to give a plain unadorned, and, as is believed, unexaggerated narrative of the settlement of the Mormons in Missouri, of the constant outrages to which they were subjected; and the series of persecutions, which were only ended by their forcible expulsion from the State, and the surrender, without compensation, of the lands and houses they had acquired by their own money or built with their own hands. Mr. Green was himself an actor and witness in many of the scenes he described, and he related them without any attempt at ornament or appeal to passion.

When Mr. Green took his seat, Joseph Blunt, Esq. addressed the meeting with ability and great effect, and offered the resolutions that will be found below. He was eloquently followed and seconded by Hiram Ketchum, Esq. The resolutions were further supported by several speakers, among whom were Dr. D. M. Reese, and W. L. Stone, Esq., when the question was taken on them separately, and they were carried almost without a dissentient voice.

Upon a suggestion from the Chair, that as the wants of the sufferers were urgent, good might arise from some immediate contribution—a mechanic, in his working jacket, stood up, saying that having often witnessed the good effects of example on such occasions, he proposed—although, as he added, the sum he could give was humble—if nine others would do likewise, to give *five dollars*, and immediately walked up to the table and deposited the money. The challenge was accepted by several others, and a sum exceeding fifty dollars was collected on the spot.

The meeting then adjourned, it being understood that the committee named to receive and distribute contributions, would at once enter upon their duties.

Resolved, That as Americans, we have heard with shame and indignation, the narrative given by Mr. Green, of the persecutions, sufferings and lawless violence of which a body of American citizens have been the objects and the victims, for no other apparent cause than that, without hindrance to others, or violation of any law of the land, they acted on the right guaranteed to them by the Constitution of the United States of a free exercise of religion."

Resolved, That without meaning to express any opinion whatever as to the religious tenets or practices of the Mormons as a sect, we condemn and desire to bear our testimony against mob-law, lynch-law, and all other forms of violence and outrage, where an excited populace becomes at once jury, judge and executioner.

Resolved, That the Mormons, as wronged, persecuted, exiled, and defrauded Americans, are entitled to the sympathy and support of their countrymen, and that especially in behalf of the women and childen driven from their homes at the point of the bayonet, we appeal to the known benevolence of our fellow citizens at large for pecuniary aid.

Resolved, That the Chairman and Secretary be a committee with power to add to their numbers—to obtain subscriptions in aid of the women and children of the Mormons—such subscriptions to be applied after due investigation by the committee themselves.

Resolved, That these resolutions be signed by the Chairman and Secretary, and published in the newspapers.

CHARLES KING, Chairman.

Marcus Spring, Sec'y.

From the foregoing numerous extracts, the public can see that my horrible tale of woe is not a fiction, but an awful reality. I might fill a volume with similar quotations from the public journals of every part of the Union, but I forbear, with the full conviction that the foregoing are sufficient to show that an impartial public, who stand entirely unconnected with our Society as religionists, bear out my narrative in its awful tide of woe and suffering, and I now submit the subject to the perusal of all people, willing to meet my statements in the foregoing, at the bar of Him who knows all secret things, and who judges righteously.

The author of the foregoing narrative is now at liberty, and some account of his narrow escape from prison, and from the State of Missouri, is due to the public. On the 1st of July, the special term of the Court was held at Columbia, for our trials, but was adjourned for near three months because all our witnesses were banished from the State. Under these circumstances we were unwilling to be tried in a State where all law and justice were at an end. We accordingly thought it justifiable to make our escape. In the mean time, we were visited by Mrs. Phelps, the wife of one of the prisoners, and also by my brother, Orson Pratt, and Mrs. Phelps' brother, these all came from Illinois or Iowa, on horseback, and visited with us for several days. On the 4th of July, we felt disposed, as usual to celebrate the anniverary of American liberty. We accordingly manufactured a white flag, consisting of the half of a shirt on which was inscribed the word LIBERTY, in large letters, and also a large American Eagle was put on in red. We then obtained a pole from our jailor, and on the morning of the 4th, this flag was suspended from the front window of our prison, overhanging the public square, and floating triumphantly in the air to the full view of the citizens who assembled by hundreds to celebrate the National Jubilee.—With this the citizens seemed highly pleased, and sent a portion of the public dinner to us and our friends, who partook with us in prison with merry hearts, as we intended to gain our liberties or be in paradise before the close of that eventful day. While we were thus employed in prison, the town was alive with troops parading, guns firing, music sounding, and shouts of joy resounding on every side. In the mean time we wrote the following toast, which was read at their public dinner, with many and long cheers:

The patriotic and hospitable citizens of Boon county: opposed to tyranny and oppression, and firm to the original principles of Republican Liberty—may they in common with every part of our wide spreading country, long enjoy the blessings which flow from the fountain of American Independence.* Our dinner being ended, our two brethren took leave of us and started for Illinois, (leaving Mrs. Phelps to still visit with her husband,) they had proceeded a mile or two on the road and then took into the woods, and finally placed their three horses in a thicket within one third of a mile of the prison, and there they waited in anxious suspense till sundown. In the mean time we put on our coats and hats and waited for the setting sun. With prayer and supplication for deliverance from this long and tedious bondage, and for a restoration to the society of our friends and families, we then sung the following lines:

Lord cause their foolish plans to fail,
And let them faint or die,
Our souls would quit this Missouri jail,
And fly to Illinois.

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*The inhabitants of Boone county being mostly Whigs were opposed to the proceedings of the State against our people.

To join with the unshackled Saints,
Who are with freedom blessed,
That only bliss for which we pant,
With them awhile to rest.

Give joy for grief—give ease for pain,
Take all our foes away;
But let us find our friends again
In this eventful day.

This ended the celebration of our National Liberty, but the gaining of our own was the grand achievement now before us. In the mean time, the sun was setting; the moment arrived, the footsteps of the jailor were heard on the stairs, every man flew to his feet, and stood near the door—the great door was opened, and our supper handed in through a small hole in the inner door, which still remained locked, but at length the key was turned in order to hand in the pot of coffee. No sooner was the key turned than the door was jerked open, and in a moment all three of us were out and rushing down the stairs, the foremost, Mr. Phelps, was clinched by the jailor, both tumbled down the stairs, through the entry and out into the door-yard, when Phelps cleared himself without injuring the jailer, and all of us leaped several fences, ran through the fields towards the thicket, where we expected to find our friends and horses. In the mean time, the town was alarmed, and many were seen rushing after us, some on horseback, and some on foot, prepared with dogs, guns, and whatever came to hand. But the flag of Liberty with its eagle, still floated on high, in the distance, and under its banner our nerves seemed to strengthen at every step. We gained the horses, mounted, and dashed into the wilderness, each his own way. After a few jumps of my horse I was hailed by an armed man at pistol shot distance, crying, "d——n you stop or I'll shoot you." I rushed onward deeper in the forest, while the cry was repeated in close pursuit, crying, "d——n you stop, or I'll shoot you," at every step, till at length it died away in the distance.

I plunged a mile into the forest—came to a halt—tied my horse in a thicket—went a distance, and climed a tree, to await the approaching darkness. Being so little used to scouting, I fainted through over exertion, and remained so faint for near an hour, that I could not get down from the tree. But calling on the Lord, he strengthened me, and I came down from the tree. But my horse had got loose and gone. I then made my way on foot for several days and nights, principally without food, and scarcely suffering myself to be seen. After five days of dreadful suffering with fatigue and hunger, I crossed the Mississippi, and found myself once more in a land of freedom. Hundreds of my friends crowded around me, and many of the citizens of Illinois, although strangers to me, received and welcomed me as one who had escaped from a persecution almost unparralleled in modern history. I was every where invited to preach the gospel, and gave many public addresses, but no attempt has ever been made to take myself and fellow prisoners. The fact is, Missouri robbers dare not show themselves among a free people, on such an errand, and those who are not robbers do not wish to see us imprisoned again, but rather feel to weep over suffering humanity. I found our society scattered wide through Illinois and Iowa, and many of them destitute of home and the comforts of life, and hundreds of them dwelling in tents during the sickly season, and thus exposed, many were sick and dying, when I left them on the last of August, 1839. Thus through the mercy of God, my life is still spared. I am delivered from a dreadful bondage, and again permitted to persue my calling. And I now bear witness to small and great, that the system of religion for which we are persecuted, is true; and that God has committed unto us a dispensation of the gospel in its fulness; restoring the ancient order of the doctrine and kingdom of God—and being specially commissioned by Revelation from the Almighty, we hereby warn all men to repent of their sins, and to be baptized in the name of the Lord, for the remission of their sins, and those who do these things shall receive the Holy Spirit; and signs shall follow them that believe, and if they endure in faithfulness to the end, they shall be saved.

And again, concerning the signs of the times, we are authorized to say to all people, that the time is at hand for the restoration of the Jews, and all the remnants of Israel to their own land, for the re-building of Jerusalem, and for the fulfilling of the covenants and promises which God made with their fathers; and when the remnant has returned and Jerusalem is re-built, behold the Messiah will come with all his saints, and he will set his feet on Mount Olivet, which is before Jerusalem on the East. He will defend the Jews and sanctify the nation of Israel. He will set up his kingdom in their midst, and reign over all the earth, and the brightness of his coming will destroy the wicked, and there will be but one fold and one shepherd.

It is in view of these coming events, that God has sent us with a dispensation, to prepare his way, and to make straight his paths—by gathering in one the children of God from all the jarring systems in which they are now organized, and planting them in one fold by the ministration of the ordinances in their ancient purity. And having this ministry to fulfil we glory in tribulation, in persecution, in imprisonment, in banishment, in reproaches for Christ's sake and the gospel; yea, we take joyfully the spoiling of our goods, and even count our lives not dear to us, if it so be that we finish our course with joy, and the ministry we have received of the Lord Jesus, but while we do live, we will testify that God has opened the heavens and communicated with man in these days as in days of old; and by his own voice—by the ministering of Angels—by the Holy Ghost, and by Revelations and visions, he has communicated to us his will and sent us to warn this generation. And now if an Angel or Spirit has appeared to any of these men, take the council of the Pharisees—do not oppose them, lest haply you be found fighting against God.

STATE OF MISSOURI,
Richmond, Ray Co. May 18, 1839. }

To the Honorable Austin A. King, Judge of the Court of this and the adjoining counties:—

Honorable Sir,—Having been confined in prison near seven months, and the time having now arrived when a change of venue can be taken in order for the further prosecution of our trials; and the time having come when I can speak my mind freely, without endangering the lives or liberties of any but myself, I now take the liberty of seriously objecting to a trial any where within the bounds of the State, and of earnestly praying to your Honor, and to all the authorities, civil and military, that my case may come within the law of banishment, which has been so rigorously enforced upon near ten thousand of our Society, including my wife and little ones, together with all my witnesses and friends.

My reasons are obvious, and founded upon notorious facts which are known to you, sir, and to the people in general of this Republic, and therefore need no proof. They are as follows:

First, I have never received any protection by law, either of my person, property or family, while residing in this State, to which I first emigrated in 1831.

Secondly, I was driven by force of arms from Jackson county, wounded and bleeding, in 1833; while my house was burned, my crops and provisions robbed from me or destroyed; and my land kept from me until now, while my family was driven out, without shelter, at the approach of winter.

Thirdly, These crimes still go unpunished, notwithstanding I made oath before the honorable Judge Riland, then Circuit Judge of that District, to the foregoing outrages, and I also applied in person to his Excellency, Daniel Dunklin, then Governor of the State, for redress and protection, and a restoration of myself, and about 1200 of my fellow sufferers, to our rights, but all in vain.

Fourthly, My wife and children have now been driven from our house and improvements in Caldwell county, and banished from the State on pain of death, together with about ten thousand of our Society, including all my friends and witnesses; and this by the express orders of his Excellency, Lilburn W. Boggs, Governor of the State of Missouri, and by the vigorous execution of this order, by Generals Lucas and Clark, and followed up by murders, rapes, plunderings, thefts and robberies of the most inhuman character by a lawless mob who have from time to time, for more than five years past, trampled upon all law and authority, and upon all the rights of man.

Fifthly, All these inhuman outrages and crimes go unpunished, and are unnoticed by you, sir, and by all the authorities of the State.

Sixthly, The Legislature of the State has approved of and sanctioned this act of banishment, with all the crimes connected with it, by voting some two hundred thousand dollars for the payment of troops engaged in this unlawful, unconstitutional and treasonable enterprise. In monarchical governments, the banishment of criminals, after their trial and legal condemnation, has been frequently resorted to—but the banishment of innocent women and children from house and home and country, to wander in a land of strangers, unprotected and unprovided for, while their husbands and fathers are retained in dungeons, to be tried by some other law, is an act unknown in the annals of history, except in this single instance, in the nineteenth century, when it has actually transpired in a Republican State, where the constitution guarantees to every man the protection of life and property, and the right of trial by jury. These are outrages which would put monarchy to the blush, and from which the most despotic tyrants of the dark ages would turn away with shame and disgust.

In these proceedings, Missouri has enrolled her name on the list of immortal fame; her transactions will be handed down the stream of time to the latest posterity, who will read with wonder and astonishment the history of proceedings which are without a parallel in the annals of time. Why should the authorities of the State strain at a gnat and swallow a camel? Why be so strictly legal as to compel me through all the forms of a slow and legal prosecution previous to my enlargement, out of a pretence of respect to the laws of the statute which have been openly trampled upon and disregarded towards us from first to last? Why not include me in the general, wholesale banishment of our Society, that I may support my family which are now reduced to beggary in a land of strangers.

But when the authorities of the State shall redress all these wrongs; shall punish the guilty according to law; and shall restore my libily and friends to all the rights of which we have been unlawfully deprived, both in Jackson and all other counties; and shall pay all the damages which our people have sustained, then I shall believe them sincere in their professed zeal for law and justice—then shall I be convinced that I can have a fair trial in the State. But until then, I hereby solemnly protest against being tried in this State, with the full and conscientious conviction, that I have no just grounds to expect a fair and impartial trial.

I therefore most sincerely pray your Honor, and all the authorities of the State, to either banish me without further prosecution; or I freely consent to a trial before the Judiciary of the United States.

With sentiments of high consideration and due respect, I have the honor to subscribe myself, your Honor's most humble and obedient, etc. P. P. PRATT.

Hon. Austin A. King.

APPENDIX.

The following additional particulars, are extracted from a pamphlet published by Mr. John P. Greene, who visited various parts of the Union as the authorised agent of the Latter Day Saints, setting forth the facts of the persecution, and soliciting aid and assistance for the sufferers.

From the Quincy, (Illinois) Argus, March 16, 1839.

We give in to-day's paper the details of the recent bloody tragedy acted in Missouri—the details of a scene of terror and blood unparalleled in the annals of modern, and under the circumstances of the case, in ancient history—a tragedy of so deep and fearful, and absorbing interest, that the very life-blood of the heart is chilled at the simple contemplation. We are prompted to ask ourselves if it be really *true*, that we are living in an enlightened, a humane and civilized age—in an age and quarter of the world boasting of its progress in every thing good, and great, and honorable, and virtuous, and high-minded—in a country of which, as American citizens, we could be proud—whether we are living under a Constitution and Laws, or have not rather returned to the *ruthless* times of the *stern Attila*—to the times of the fiery Hun, when the sword and flame ravaged the fair fields of Italy and Europe, and the darkest passions held full revel in all the revolting scenes of unchecked brutality and unbridled desire!

We have no language sufficiently strong for the expression of our indignation and shame at the recent transaction in a sister State—and that State MISSOURI—a State of which we had long been proud, alike for her men and history, but now so *fallen* that we could wish her star stricken out from the bright constellation of the Union. We say we know of no language sufficiently strong for the expression of our shame and abhorrence of her recent conduct. She has written her own character in *letters of blood*—and stained it by acts of merciless cruelty and brutality that the waters of ages cannot chosen. It will be observed that an organized mob aided by many of the civil and military officers of Missouri, with Gov. Boggs at their head, have been the prominent actors in this business, incited too, it appears, against the Mormons by political hatred, and by the additional motives of plunder and revenge. They have but too well put in execution their threats of extermination and expulsion, and fully wreaked their vengeance on a body of industrious and enterprising men, who had never wronged, nor wished to wrong them, but on the contrary had ever comported themselves as good and honest citizens, living under the same laws and having the same right with themselves to the sacred immunities of life, liberty, and property.

Proceedings in the town of Quincy for the purpose of affording relief to the people usually denominated, "The Latter Day Saints."

At a meeting of the Democratic Association, held on Saturday evening, the 23rd ultimo, Mr. Lindsay introduced a resolution setting forth, that the people called "The Latter Day Saints," were many of them in a situation requiring the aid of the citizens of Quincy, and recommending that measures be adopted for their relief; which resolution was adopted, and a a committee consisting of eight persons apointed by the chair—of which committee J. W. Whitney was chairman. The association then adjourned to meet on Wednesday evening then next, after instructing the committee to procure the Congregational meeting-house as a place of meeting, and to invite as many of the people to attend the meeting as should choose to do so, in whose behalf the meeting was to be held, and also all others, citizens of the town. The committee not being able to obtain the meeting-house, procured the court-house for that purpose.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 27th, 1839, }
6 o'clock, P. M. }

The members of the Democratic Association, and the citizens of Quincy generally, assembled in the court-house to take into consideration, the state and condition of the people called "The Latter Day Saints," and organized the meeting by appointing Gen. Leach, chairman, and James D. Morgan, secretary.

Mr. Whitney, from the committee appointed at a former meeting, submitted the following report.

The select committee, to whom the subject was referred of inquiring into and reporting the situation of the persons who have recently arrived here from Missouri, and whether their circumstances are such, as that they would need the aid of the citizens of Quincy and its vicinity, to be guided by what they might deem the principles of an expanded benevolence, have attended to the duties assigned them, and have concluded on the following

REPORT:

The first idea that occurred to your committee, was to obtain correctly the facts of the case, for without them the committee could come to no conclusions, as to what it might be proper for us to do. Without them, they could form no basis upon which the committee might recommend to this association what would be proper for us to do, or what measures to adopt.— The committee, soon after their appointment, sent invitations to Mr. Rigdon, and several others, to meet the committee and give them a statement of the facts, and to disclose their situation. Those individuals accordingly met the committee and entered into a free conversation and disclosure of the facts of their situation, and after some time spent therein, the committee concluded to adjourn and report to this meeting, but not without first requesting those individuals to draw up and send us, in writing, a condensed statement of the facts relative to the subjects in charge of your committee, which those individuals engaged to do, and which the committee request may be taken as part of their report. That statement is herewith lettered A.

The committee believe that our duties at this time, and on this occasion, are all included within the limits of an expanded benevolence and humanity, and which are guided and directed by that charity which never faileth. From the facts already disclosed, independent of the statement furnished to the committee, we feel it our duty to recommend to this association that they adopt the following resolutions :

Resolved, That the strangers recently arrived here from the State of Missouri, known by the name of "The Latter Day Saints," are entitled to our sympathy and kindest regard, and that we recommend to the citizens of Quincy to extend to them all the kindness in their power to bestow, as persons who are in affliction.

Resolved, That a numerous committee be raised, composed of some individuals in every quarter of the town and its vicinity, whose duty it shall be to explain to our misguided fellow-citizens, if any such there be, who are disposed to excite prejudices and circulate unfounded rumors; and particularly to explain to them, that these people have no design to lower the wages of the laboring class, but to procure something to save them from starving.

Resolved, That a standing committee be raised, and be composed of individuals who shall immediately inform Mr. Rigdon and others, as many as they think proper, of their appointment; and who shall be authorized to obtain information from time to time, and should they be of opinion that any individuals, either from destitution or sickness, or if they find them houseless, that they appeal directly and promptly to the citizens of Quincy to furnish them with the means to relieve all such cases.

Resolved, That the committee last aforesaid, be instructed to use their utmost endeavours to obtain employment for all these people who are able and willing to labour, and also to afford them all needful, suitable, and proper encouragement.

Resolved, That we recommend to all the citizens of Quincy, that in all their intercourse with the strangers, that they use and observe a becoming decorum and delicacy, and be particularly careful not to indulge in any conversation or expressions calculated to wound their feelings, or in any other way to reflect upon those, who, by every law of humanity, are entitled to our sympathy and commisseration.

All which is submitted.

J. W. WHITNEY, Ch'n.

Quincy, February 27, 1839.

(A.)

This, gentlemen, is a brief outline of the difficulties that we have labored under, in consequence of the repeated persecutions that have been heaped upon us; and as the Governor's exterminating order has not been rescinded, we, as a people, were obliged to leave the State, and with it, our lands, corn, wheat, pork &c., that we had provided for ourselves and families, together with our fodder, which we had collected for our cattle, horses, &c.—those of them that we have been able to preserve from the wreck of that desolation which has spread itself over Daviess and Caldwell counties.

In consequence of our brethren's being obliged to leave the State, and as a sympathy and friendly spirit has been manifested by the citizens of Quincy, numbers of our brethren, glad to obtain an assylum from the hand of persecution, have come to this place.

We cannot but express our feelings of gratitude to the inhabitants of this place for the friendly feelings which have been manifested, and the benevolent hand which has been stretched out to a poor oppressed, injured, and persecuted people; and as you, gentlemen of the Democratic Association, have felt interested in our welfare, and have desired to be put in possession of a knowledge of our situation, our present wants, and what would be most conducive to our present good, together with what led to those difficulties, we thought that those documents* would furnish you with as correct information of our difficulties and what led to them, as any that we are in possession of.

If we should say what our present wants are, it would be beyond all calculations, as we have been robbed of our corn, wheat, horses, cattle, cows, hogs, wearing apparel, houses and homes, and indeed, of all that renders life tolerable.—We do not, we cannot expect to be placed in the situation that we once were, nor are we capable, of ourselves, of supplying the many wants of those of our poor brethren, who are daily crowding here and looking to us for relief, in consequence of our property, as well as theirs being in the hands of a ruthless and desolating mob.

It is impossible to give an exact account of the widows, and those that are entirely destitute, as there are so many coming here daily; but, from inquiry, the probable amount will be something near twenty, besides numbers of others who are able-bodied men, both able and willing to work, to obtain a subsistence, yet owing to their peculiar situation, are destitute of means to supply the immediate wants that the necessities of their families call for. We would not propose, gentlemen, what you shall do, but after making these statements, shall leave it to your own judgment and generosity.

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* Alluding to a memorial and other documents.

As to what we think would be the best means to promote our permanent good, we think that to give us employment, rent us farms, and allow us the protection and privileges of other citizens, would raise us from a state of dependance, liberate us from the iron grasp of poverty, put us in possession of a competency, and deliver us from the ruinous effects of persecution, despotism and tyranny.

Written in behalf of a committee of "The Latter Day Saints."

E. HIGBEE, Pres't.

J. P. GREENE, Clerk.

To the Quincy Democratic Association.

Mr. Rigdon then made a statement of the wrongs received by the Mormons, from a portion of the people of Missouri, and of their present suffering condition.

On motion of Mr. Bushnell, the report and resolutions were laid upon the table, till to-morrow evening.

On motion of Mr. Bushnell, the meeting adjourned to meet at this place on to-morrow evening, at seven o'clock.

THURSDAY EVENING, Feb. 28.

Met pursuant to adjournment.

The meeting was called to order by the chairman.

On motion of Mr. Morris, a committee of three was appointed to take up a collection; Messrs. J. T. Holmes, Whitney, and Morris, were appointed.

The committee subsequently reported that $46 25 cents had been collected.

On motion, the amount was paid over to the committee on behalf of the Mormons.

On motion of Mr. Holmes, a committee of three, consisting of S. Holmes, Bushnell and

Morris, were appointed to draw up subscription papers and circulate them among the citizens, for the purpose of receiving contributions in clothing and provisions.

On motion, six were added to that committee.

On motion of J. T. Holmes, J. D. Morgan was appointed a committee to wait upon the Quincy Greys, for the purpose of receiving subscriptions.

Mr. Morgan subsequently reported that $20 had been subscribed by that company.

The following resolutions were then offered by Mr. T. J. Holmes.

Resolved, That we regard the rights of conscience as natural and inalienable, and the most sacred guaranteed by the constitution of our free government.

Resolved, That we regard the acts of all mobs as flagrant violations of law, and those who compose them, individually responsible, both to the laws of God or man for every depredation committed upon the property, rights, or life of any citizen.

Resolved, That the inhabitants upon the Western Frontier of the State of Missouri in their late persecutions of the class of people denominated Mormons, have violated the sacred rights of conscience, and every law of justice and humanity.

Resolved, That the Gov. of Missouri in refusing protection to this class of people when pressed upon by an heartless mob, and turning upon them a band of unprincipled Militia, with orders encouraging their extermination, has brought a lasting disgrace upon the State over which he presides.

The resolutions were supported in a spirited manner by Messrs. Holmes, Morris and Whitney.

On motion, the resolutions were adopted.

On motion, the meeting then adjourned.

SAM'L LEACH, Chairman.

J. D. MORGAN, Sec'y.

The following is a short history of my travels to the State of Missouri, and of a bloody tragedy acted at Haun's Mills, or Shoal Creek, October 30th, 1838.

On the 6th of July last, I started with my family from Kirtland, Ohio, for the State of Missouri, the county of Caldwell, in the upper part of the State, being the place of my destination. On the 13th of October, I crossed the Mississippi at Louisiana, at which place I heard vague reports of the disturbances in the upper country, but nothing that could be relied upon. I continued my course westward till I crossed Grand River, at a place called Compton's Ferry; at which place I heard, for the first time, that if I proceeded any farther on my journey, I would be in danger of being stopped by a body of armed men. I was not willing, however, while treading my native soil, and breathing republican air, to abandon my object; which was to locate myself and family in a fine healthy country, where we could enjoy the society of our friends and connexions. Consequently, I prosecuted my journey till I came to Whitney's mills, situated on Shoal Creek, in the eastern part of Caldwell county. After crossing the creek and going about three miles, we met a party of the mob, about forty in number, armed with rifles, and mounted on horses, who informed us that we could go no farther west—threatening us with instant death if we proceeded any farther. I asked them the reason of this prohibition, to which they replied that we were Mormons, and that every one who adhered to our religious faith would have to leave the State in ten days or renounce their religion. Accordingly they drove us back to the mills above mentioned.

Here we tarried three days; and, on Friday, the 26th, we re-crossed the creek and following up its banks, we succeeded in eluding the mob for the time being, and gained the residence of a friend in Myers' settlement. On Sunday, 28th Oct. we arrived about 12 o'clock at Haun's mills, where we found a number of our friends collected together, who were holding a council, and deliberating upon the best course for them to pursue, to defend themselves against the mob, who were collecting in the neighborhood, under the command of Col. Jennings, of Livingston, and threatening them with house-burning and killing. The decision of the council was, that our friends there should place themselves in attitude of self-defence.

Accordingly, about 25 of our men armed themselves, and were in constant readiness for an attack of any small body of men that might come upon them. The same evening, for some reason, best known to themselves, the mob sent one of their number to enter into a treaty with our friends which was accepted, on the condition of mutual forbearance on both sides, and that each party, as far as their influence extended, should exert themselves to prevent any farther hostilities upon either party.

At this time, however, there was another mob collecting on Grand River, at William Mann's, who was threatening us, consequently we remained under arms on Monday, the 29th, which passed away without molestation from any quarter. On Tuesday, the 30th, that bloody tragedy was acted; the scenes of which I never shall forget. More than three-fourths of the day had passed in tranquillity, as smiling as the preceding one. I think there was no individual of our company that was apprised of the sudden and awful fate that hung over our heads like an overwhelming torrent, which was to change the prospects, the feelings, and circumstances of about 30 families. The banks of Shoal-creek, on either side, teemed with children, sporting and playing, while their mothers were engaged in domestic employments, and their fathers employed in guarding the mills, and other property, while others were engaged in gathering in their crops for their winter consumption. The weather was very pleasant—the sun shone clear—all was tranquil; and no one expressed any apprehension of the awful crisis that was near us—even at our doors.

It was about 4 o'clock, while sitting in my cabin with my babe in my arms, and my wife standing by my side, the door being open, I cast my eyes on the opposite bank of Shoal-creek, and saw a large company of armed men, on horses, directing their course towards the mills with all possible speed. As they advanced through the scattering trees that stood on the edge of the prairie, they seemed to form themselves into a three-square position, forming a van-guard in front. At this moment, David Evans, seeing the superiority of their numbers, (there being 240 of them, according to their own account,) swung his hat, and cried for peace. This not being heeded, they continued to advance, and their leader, Mr. Comstock, fired a gun, which was followed by a solemn pause of ten or twelve seconds, when all at once, they discharged about 100 rifles, aiming at a blacksmith shop into which our friends fled for safety; and charging up to the shop, the cracks of which between the logs were sufficiently large to enable them to aim directly at the bodies of those who had there fled for refuge from the fire of their murderers. There were several families tented in the rear of the shop, whose lives were exposed, and amidst a shower of bullets fled to the woods in different directions.

After standing and gazing on this bloody scene for a few minutes, and finding myself in the uttermost danger, the bullets having reached the house where I was living, I committed my family to the protection of Heaven, and leaving the house on the opposite side, I took a path which led up the hill, following in the trail of three of my brethren that had fled from the shop. While ascending the hill we were discovered by the mob, who immediately fired at us, and continued so to do till we reached the summit. In descending the hill I secreted myself in a thicket of bushes, where I lay till eight o'clock in the evening, at which time I heard a female voice calling my name in an undertone, telling me that the mob had gone, and there was no danger. I immediately left the thicket, and went to the house of Benjamin Lewis, where I found my family, (who had fled there,) in safety, and two of my friends mortally wounded, one of whom died before morning.

Here we passed the painful night in deep and awful reflections on the scenes of the preceding evening. After day-light appeared, some four or five men, with myself, who had escaped with our lives from the horrid massacre, repaired as soon as possible to the mills, to learn the condition of our friends, whose fate we had but too truly anticipated.

When we arrived at the house of Mr. Haun, we found Mr. Merrick's body lying in rear of the house; Mr. M'Bride's in front, literally mangled from head to foot. We were informed by Miss Rebecca Judd, who was an eye witness, that he was shot with his own gun, after he had given it up, and then cut to pieces with a corn cutter, by a Mr. Rogers of Daviess county, who keeps a ferry on Grand River, and who has since repeatedly boasted of this act of savage barbarity. Mr. York's body we found in the house, and after viewing these corpses, we immediately went to the blacksmith shop, where we found nine of our friends, eight of whom were already dead; the other, Mr. Cox, of Indiana, struggling in the agonies of death, who expired. We immediately prepared and carried them to the place of interment. This last office of kindness due to the relicts of departed friends, was not attended with the customary ceremonies, nor decency, for we were in jeopardy, every moment expecting to be fired upon by the mob, who, we supposed, were lying in ambush, waiting for the first opportunity to despatch the remaining few who were providentially preserved from the slaughter of the preceding day. However, we accomplished, without molestation, this painful task. The place of burying was a vault in the ground, formerly intended for a well, into which we threw the bodies of our friends promiscuously.

Among those slain I will mention Sardius Smith, son of Warren Smith, about 9 years old, who, through fear, had crawled under the bellows in the shop, where he remained till the massacre was over, when he was discovered by a Mr. Glaze, of Carroll county, who presented his rifle near the boy's head and literally blowed off the upper part of it. Mr. Stanley of Carroll told me afterwards that Glaze boasted of this fiendlike murder and heroic deed all over the country.

The number killed and mortally wounded in this wanton slaughter was 18 or 19, whose names, as far as I recollect, were as follows: Thomas M'Bride, Levi Merrick, Elias Benner, Josiah Fuller, Benjamin Lewis, Alexander Campbell, Warren Smith, Sardius Smith, Geo.

Richards, Mr. Napier, Mr. Harmer, Mr. Cox, Mr. Abbott, Mr. York, Wm. Merrick, (a boy 8 or 9 years old,) and three or four others, whose names I do not recollect, as they were strangers to me.

Among the wounded who recovered were Isaac Laney, Nathan K. Knight, Mr. Yokum, two brothers by the name of Myers, Tarlton Lewis, Mr. Haun, and several others. Miss Mary Stedwell while fleeing was shot through the hand, and, fainting, fell over a log, into which they shot upwards of twenty balls.

To finish their work of destruction this band of murderers, composed of men from Daviess, Livingston, Ray, Carroll, and Chariton counties, led by some of the principal men of that section of the upper country, (among whom I am informed were Mr. Ashby, from Chariton, member of the State Legislature, Col. Jennings of Livingston county, Thomas O. Bryon, Clerk of Livingston co., Mr. Whitney, Dr. Randall, and many others,) proceeded to rob the houses, wagons and tents, of bedding and clothing, drove off horses and wagons, leaving widows and orphans destitute of the necessaries of life, and even stripped the clothing from the bodies of the slain;

According to their own account, they fired seven rounds in this awful butchery, making upwards of sixteen hundred shots at a little company of men, about thirty in number.

I hereby certify the above to be a true statement of facts according to the best of my knowledge.

JOSEPH YOUNG.

STATE OF ILLINOIS,
County of Adams.

I hereby certify that Joseph Young this day came before me and made oath in due form of law that the statements contained in the foregoing sheets are true according to the best of his knowledge and belief. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Circuit Court at Quincy, this fourth day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-nine.

C. M. WOODS,
Clerk Circuit Court, Adams Co. Ill.

P. S. A younger brother of the boy here killed aged eight, was shot through the hip. The little fellow himself states, that seeing his father and brother both killed he thought they would shoot him again if he stirred, and so feigned himself dead, and lay perfectly still, till he heard his mother call him after dark.

The following address, was delivered at Far West, by Maj. Gen. Clark, to the Mormons, after they had surrendered their arms, and themselves prisoners :

"Gentlemen—You whose names are not attached to this list of names, will now have the privilege of going to your fields to obtain corn for your families, wood, &c. Those that are now taken, will go from thence to prison—be tried, and receive the due demerit of their crimes. But you are now at liberty, all but such as charges may be hereafter preferred against. It now devolves upon you to fulfil the treaty that you have entered into, the leading items of which I now lay before you. The first of these you have already complied with, which is, that you deliver up your leading men to be tried according to law. Second, that you deliver up your arms—this has been attended to. The third is, that you sign over your properties to defray the expenses of the war—this you have also done. Another thing yet remains for you to comply with, that is that you leave the State forthwith, and whatever your feelings concerning this affair—whatever your innocence, it is nothing to me. Gen. Lucas, who is equal in authority with me, has made this treaty with you. I am determined to see it executed. The orders of the Governor to me, were, that you should be exterminated, and not allowed to continue in the State, and had your leaders not been given up and the treaty complied with before this, you and your families would have been destroyed, and your houses in ashes.

There is a discretionary power vested in my hands which I shall try to exercise for a season. I did not say that you should go now, but you must not think of staying here another season, or of putting in crops; for the moment you do, the citizens will be upon you. I am determined to see the Governor's Message fulfilled, but shall not come upon you immediately—do not think that I shall act as I have done any more—but if I have to come again, because the treaty which you have made here shall be broken, you need not expect any mercy, but extermination—for I am determined that the Governor's order shall be executed. As for your leaders, do not once think—do not imagine for a moment—do not let it enter your mind, that they will be delivered, or that you will see their faces again, for their fate is fixed, their die is cast—their doom is sealed.

I am sorry, gentlemen, to see so great a number of apparently intelligent men found in the situation that you are; and oh! that I could invoke the spirit of the unknown God to rest upon you, and deliver you from that awful chain of superstition, and liberate you from those fetters of fanaticism with which you are bound. I would advise you to scatter abroad and never again organize with Bishops, Presidents, &c., lest you excite the jealousies of the people, and subject yourselves to the same calamities that have now come upon you. You have always been the aggressors—you have brought upon yourselves these difficulties by being disaffected, and not being subject to rule—and my advice is, that you become as other citizens, lest by a recurrence of these events you bring upon yourselves irretrievable ruin.

Copy of Joseph Smith, Jr.'s Petition.

To the Honorable Judge Tompkins, or either of the Judges of the Supreme Court for the State of Missouri.

Your petitioners, beg leave respectfully, to represent to your honor, that Joseph Smith, jr., is now unlawfully confined and restrained of his liberty, in Liberty jail, Clay co. (Mo.) that he has been restrained of his liberty near five months. Your petitioners claim that the whole transaction which has been the cause of his confinement, is unlawful from the first to the last. He was taken from his home by a fraud being practised upon him by a man by the name of George M. Hinkle, and one or two others, thereby, your petitioners respectfully show, that he was forced contrary to his wishes, and without knowing the cause, into the camp which was commanded by General Lucas, of Jackson county, and from thence to Ray county, sleeping on the ground and suffering many insults and injuries, and deprivations, which were calculated in their nature to break down the spirits and constitution of the most robust and hardy of mankind. He was put in chains immediately on his being landed at Richmond, and there underwent a long and tedious exparte examination; not only was it exparte, but your petitioners solemnly declare that it was a mock examination; that there was not the least shadow of honor, or justice, or law, administered toward him, but sheer prejudice, and the spirit of persecution and malice, and prepossession against him on account of his religion; that the whole examination was an inquisitory examination. Your petitioners show that the said Joseph Smith, junior, was deprived of the privilege of being examined before the court, as the law directs; that the witnesses on the part of the State were taken by force of arms, threatened with extermination or immediate death, and were brought without subpœna or warrant, under this awful and glaring anticipation of being exterminated if they did not swear something against him to please the mob, or his persecutors; and those witnesses were compelled to swear at the muzzle of the gun, and that some of them have acknowledged since, which your petitioners do testify, and are able to prove, that they did swear false, and that they did it in order to save their lives. And your petitioners testify that all the testimony that had any tendency or bearing of criminality against said Joseph Smith, junior, is false. We are personally acquainted with the circumstances, and being with him most of the time, and being present at the times spoken of by them, therefore we know that their testimony was false, and if he could have had a fair and impartial and lawful examination before that court, and could have been allowed the privilege of introducing his witnesses, he could have disproved every thing that was against him; but the court suffered them to be intimidated—some of them in the presence of the court, and they were driven also, and hunted, and some of them entirely driven out of the State. And thus he was not able to have a fair trial; that the spirit of the court was tyrannical and overbearing, and the whole transaction of his treatment during the examination was calculated to convince your petitioners that it was a religious persecution, proscribing him in the liberty of conscience, which is guaranteed to him by the Constitution of the United States, and the State of Missouri; that a long catalogue of garbled testimony was permitted by the court, purporting to be the religious sentiment of the said Joseph Smith, junior, which testimony was false, and your petitioners know that it was false; because the witnesses testified that those sentiments were promulgated on certain days, and in the presence of large congregations; and your petitioners can prove by those congregations, that the said Joseph Smith, junior, did not promulge such ridiculous and absurd sentiments for his religion, as was testified of, and admitted before the Honorable Austin A. King; and, at the same time, those things had no bearing on the case, that the said Joseph Smith, junior, was pretended to be charged with; and, after the examination, the said prisoner was committed to the jail for treason against the State of Missouri; whereas, the said Joseph Smith, junior, did not levy war against the State of Missouri, neither did he commit any covert acts; neither did he aid or abet an enemy against the State of Missouri during the time that he is charged with having done so; and, further, your petitioners have yet to learn that the State has an enemy; neither is the proof evident, nor the presumption great, in its most indignant form, upon the face of the testimony on the part of the State, exparte as it is in its nature, that the said prisoner has committed the slightest degree of treason, or any other act of transgression against the laws of the State of Missouri; and yet said prisoner has been committed to Liberty jail, Clay county, (Mo.) for treason.

He has continually offered bail to any amount that could be required notwithstanding your petitioners alledge that he ought to have been acquitted. Your petitioners also allege that the commitment was an illegal commitment, for the law requires that a copy of the testimony should be put in the hands of the jailor, which was not done. Your petitioners alledge that the prisoner has been denied the privilege of the law in a writ of Habeas Corpus, by the judges of this county. Whether they have prejudged the case of the prisoner, or whether they are not willing to administer law and justice to the prisoner, or that they are intimidated by the high office of Judge King, who only acted in the case of the prisoners as a committing magistrate, a conservator of the peace, or by the threats of a lawless mob, your petitioners are not able to say but is a fact that they do not come forward boldly and administer the law to the relief of the prisoner; and, farther, your petitioners alledge that immediately after the prisoner was taken, his family was frightened and driven out of their house, and that, too, by the witnesses on the part of the State, and plundered of their goods; that the prisoner was robbed of a very fine horse, saddle, and bridle, and other property of considerable amount; that they, (the witnesses,) in connection with the mob, have finally succeeded, by vile threatening and foul abuse, in driving the family of the prisoner out of the State, with little or no means, and without a protector, and their very subsistence depends on the liberty of the prisoner. And your petitioners alledge that he is not guilty of any crime whereby he should be restrain of his liberty, from a personal knowledge, having been with him, and being personally acquainted with the whole of the difficulties between the Mormons and their persecutors; and that he has never acted, at any time, only in his own defence, and that, too, on his own ground, property, and possessions; that the prisoner has never commanded any military company, nor held any military authority, neither any other office, real or pretended, in the State of Missouri, except that of a religious teacher: that he never has born arms in the military rank, and in all such cases has acted as a private character, and as an individual.

How, then, your petitioners would ask, can it be possible, that the prisoner has committed treason. The prisoner has had nothing to do in Daviess county, only on his own business as an individual. The testimony of Doctor Avard concerning a council held at James Sloan's, was false. Your petitioners do solemnly declare, that there was no such council; that your petitioners were with the prisoner, and there was no such vote nor conversation as Doctor Avard swore to; that Doctor Avard also swore false concerning a constitution, as he said, was introduced among the Danites; that the prisoner had nothing to do with burning in Daviess county; that the prisoner made public proclamation against such things; that the prisoner did oppose Doctor Avard and George M. Hinkle against vile measures with the mob, but was threatened by them if he did not let them alone; that the prisoner did not have any thing to do with what is called Bogart's battle, for he knew nothing of it until it was over—that he was at home, in the bosom of his own family during the time of that whole transaction; and, in fine, your petitioners allege that he is held in confinement without cause, and under an unlawful and tyrannical oppression, and that his health, and constitution, and life, depends on being liberated from his confinement.

Your petitioners aver that they can disprove every item of testimony that has any tendency of criminality against the prisoner, for they know it themselves, and can bring many others also to prove the same. Therefore, your petitioners pray your honor to grant to him the State's writ of habeas corpus, directed to the jailor of Clay county, (Mo.,) commanding him forthwith to bring before you the body of the prisoner, so that his case may be heard before your honor, and the situation of the prisoner be considered and adjusted according to law and justice, as it shall be presented before your honor, and as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

And, farther, your petitioners testify that the said Joseph Smith, junior, did make a public proclamation in Far west, in favor of the militia of the State of Missouri, and of its laws, and, also, of the constitution of the United States; that he has ever been a warm friend to his country, and did use all his influence for peace;

that he is a peaceable and quiet citizen, and is not worthy of death, of stripes, bonds, or imprisonment.

The above mentioned speech was delivered on the day before the surrender of Far West.

ALANSON RIPLEY,
HEBER C. KIMBALL,
WILLIAM HUNTINGTON,
JOSEPH B. NOBLE,
JOSEPH SMITH, jun.

STATE OF MISSOURI, } ss.
County of Clay. }

This day personally appeared before me Abraham Shafer, a Justice of the Peace within and for the aforesaid county—Alanson Ripley, Heber C. Kimball, Wm. Huntington, Joseph B. Noble, and Joseph Smith, jun., who being duly sworn, doth depose and say that the matters and things set forth in the foregoing petition, upon their own knowledge, are true in substance and in fact, and so far as set forth upon the information of others, they believe to be true.

ALANSON RIPLEY,
HEBER C. KIMBALL,

WILLIAM HUNTINGTON,
JOSEPH B. NOBLE,
JOSEPH SMITH, jun.

Sworn and subscribed to before me, this 15th day of March, 1839,

ABRAHAM SHAFER, J. P.

"We, the undersigned, being many of us personally acquainted with the said Joseph Smith, jun., and the circumstances connected with his imprisonment, do concur in the petition and testimony of the above named individuals, as most of the transactions therein mentioned we know from personal knowledge, to be correctly set forth, and from information of others, believe the remainder to be true.

AMASA LYMAN,
H. G. SHERWOOD,
JAMES NEWBERY,
CYRUS DANIELS,
ERASTUS SNOW,
ELIAS SMITH.

Complete 6-29-19
JCL

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